TWO LEGION of SUPER-HEROES STORIES IN EVERY ISSUE!

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NO. 494 DEC.

ADVENTURE COMICS

BRAND-NEW! CONTRACT ON CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN™

SUPERMAN BEATEN BY "THE LEGION of SUPER-VILLAINS!"

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CONTINUING THE LEGEND THAT IS

NO. 494 DECEMBER, 1982

***** Carl Gafford: Editor *****

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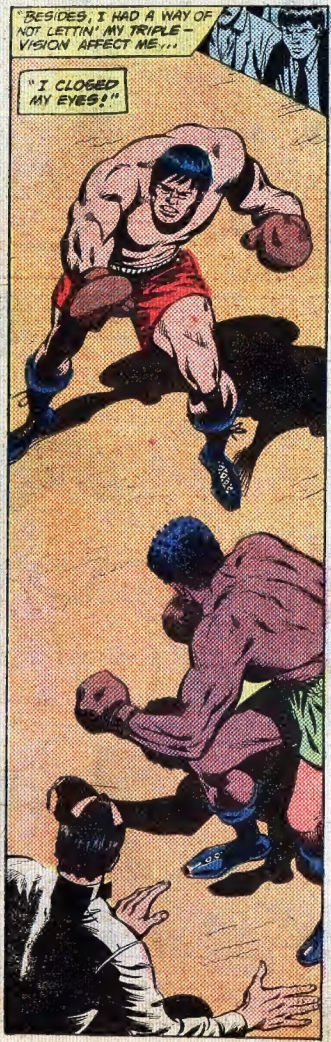
TEST PILOT ACE MORGAN! DEEP SEA DIVER PROF HALEY! HEAVY-WEIGHT BOXING CHAMP ROCKY DAVIS! DARE-DEVIL SHOWMAN RED RYAN! FOUR MEN WHO HAVE CHEATED DEATH NOW JOIN FORCES TO JOURNEY WHERE OTHER MEN FEAR TO TREAD...
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
SCENES FROM LAST ISSUE!
THE QUIET OF A WOODED MOUNTAINSIDE IS SHATTERED BY THE COLLISION OF A PRIVATE JET! LESSER CRASHES HAVE PROVEN FATAL TO ALL PASSENGERS!
KRUMP!
BUT...
GOD--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! NOT A SCRATCH ON ANY OF US!
AND, AFTER A SEARCH THROUGH THE WRECKAGE...
MY PLANE DID NOT JUST HAPPEN TO FREEZE UP! SOMEBODY PLANTED THIS THINGAMABOB ABOARD...
...WHICH MEANS SOMEBODY TRIED TO KILL US!

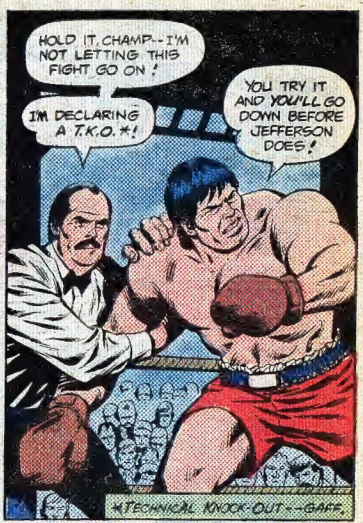
PART TWO: "CONTRACT ON A CHAMP!"

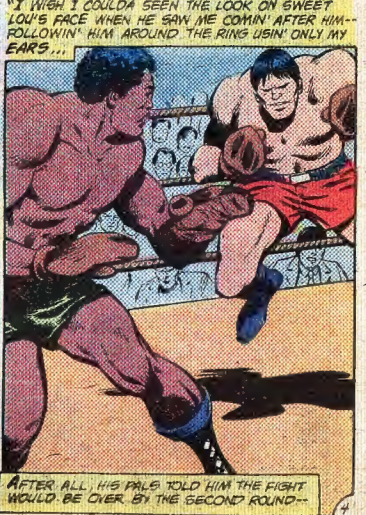
BOB ROZAKIS, WRITER * GEORGE TUSKA, PENCILLER * ANDY MUCHYNSKY, INKER * MILTON SNAPINN, LETTERER * CARL GAFFORD, EDITOR/COLORIST * DEDICATED TO JACK KIRBY

LET'S NOT BE SO SURE "US" IS THE PROPER WORD, MORGAN!
THE PROF'S RIGHT! YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T TELL WHOSE SUITCASE THAT GIZMO FELL OUTTA--
--BUT I GOT A SNEAKIN' SUSPICION IT WAS...
THREE OF US COULD BE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!
...MINE!
YA SEE, THERE'S SOME PEOPLE WHO AIN'T EXACTLY HAPPY WITH WHAT HAPPENED AT MY LAST FIGHT!
"I WAS DEFENDING MY CROWN AGAINST A GUY NAMED SWEET LOU JEFFERSON--WHO BECAME A CONTENDER ALMOST OVERNIGHT!
"WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT SWEET LOU HAD SOME HELP...
"AND THOSE HELPERS WERE PLANNIN' ON PUSHIN' HIM ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP!"
WHAT TH-- I CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT!
2

"THEY PUT A LITTLE SURPRISE IN MY DRINKING WATER--AND IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR ONE OF THE SWEET LOUIS I WAS SEEIN' TO CONNECT WITH MY CHIN..."
WHAT'S WITH THE CHAMP? HE'S HARDLY THROWN A PUNCH!
"I WAS STRUGGLIN' TO GET UP BEFORE THE REF'S COUNT REACHED TEN WHEN I WAS SAVED BY THE BELL..."
FIVE... SIX... SEVEN...
BONG
"MY PERFORMANCE WAS FAR FROM INSPIRING TO MY CORNER MAN..."
YOU'VE GOTTA THROW IN THE TOWEL, ROCKY! HOW CAN YOU FIGHT A GUY WHEN YOU CAN'T TELL WHERE HE IS!
SHUT UP AND LEMME AT HIM!
KLANG!
DON'T DO IT, ROCKY--YOU'RE BEING CRAZY!
"HE WAS PROBABLY RIGHT--BUT I HAD CLIMBED MY WAY TO THE CROWN...AND I WASN'T ABOUT TO LOSE IT TO A CROOKED FIGHT!"
3


"BESIDES, I HAD A WAY OF NOT LETTIN' MY TRIPLE-VISION AFFECT ME..."
"I CLOGED MY EYES!"


HOLD IT, CHAMP--I'M NOT LETTING THIS FIGHT GO ON!
I'M DECLARING A T.K.O.*!
YOU TRY IT AND YOU'LL GO DOWN BEFORE JEFFERSON DOES!
*TECHNICAL KNOCK-OUT--GAFF.


"I WISH I COULDA SEEN THE LOOK ON SWEET LOU'S FACE WHEN HE SAW ME COMIN' AFTER HIM--FOLLOWIN' HIM AROUND THE RING USIN' ONLY MY EARS...
AFTER ALL, HIS PALS TOLD HIM THE FIGHT WOULD BE OVER BY THE SECOND ROUND--

"--WHICH IT WAS--
POW
"--EXCEPT THE WINNER WASN'T THE ONE SWEET LOU AND HIS PALS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!"
"IT WASN'T TILL LATER THAT I FOUND OUT THE WHOLE STORY..."
--AND SWEET LOU JEFFERSON HAS ADMITTED THAT A GROUP OF GAMBLERS HAD BET VERY HEAVILY ON HIM, SECRETLY DRUGGING THE CHAMP, ROCKY DAVIS, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEIR WINNINGS!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT, CHAMP?
PAL, I TOLDYA I COULD BEAT JEFFERSON WITH MY EYES CLOSED--BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO REALLY HAVE TO DO IT!
IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT THE GOOD GUYS WIN!
"AND THE NEXT DAY I GOT A CALL ASKING ME TO APPEAR ON INCREDIBLE PEOPLE ON TV!"

I'M SOLD, CHAMP! I'VE DEALT WITH ENOUGH GAMBLERS IN MY DAY TO KNOW YOU CAN'T TRUST 'EM AS FAR AS YOU CAN THROW 'EM!
THEY'RE PROBABLY IN JAIL, THOUGH!
AREN'T THEY?
I WISH--!
THAT'S THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM--THE CROOKS GET HAULED IN BY THE COPS AND A HALF HOUR LATER THEY'RE OUT ON BAIL!
AND I'LL BE COLLECTIN' SOCIAL SECURITY BY THE TIME THE TRIAL COMES UP!
WELL, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
IT'S A SURE BET THESE ARE THE GUYS THAT BLEW US OUT OF THE SKY--AND I DON'T PLAN ON LETTING THEM GET AWAY WITH IT!
NEITHER DO I--ESPECIALLY SINCE I HAVEN'T PAID FOR THAT PLANE YET!
BUT WHAT DO WE DO?
FIRST OF ALL, I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP THE FACT THAT WE'RE ALIVE A SECRET!
THEN WE HAVE MR. DAVIS LEAD US TO THE GAMBLERS...
HOW ABOUT WE GET DOWN OFF THIS MOUNTAIN FIRST?
PICKY, PICKY, PICKY!
6

NEXT DAY, ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN METROPOLIS...
DAILY PLANET
PLANE CRASHES: ROCKY DAVIS, 3 OTHERS MISSING
BOXING CHAMP FEARED DEAD!
WELL, BOYS--IS THIS OR IS THIS NOT THE HEADLINE YOU WANTED TO SEE?

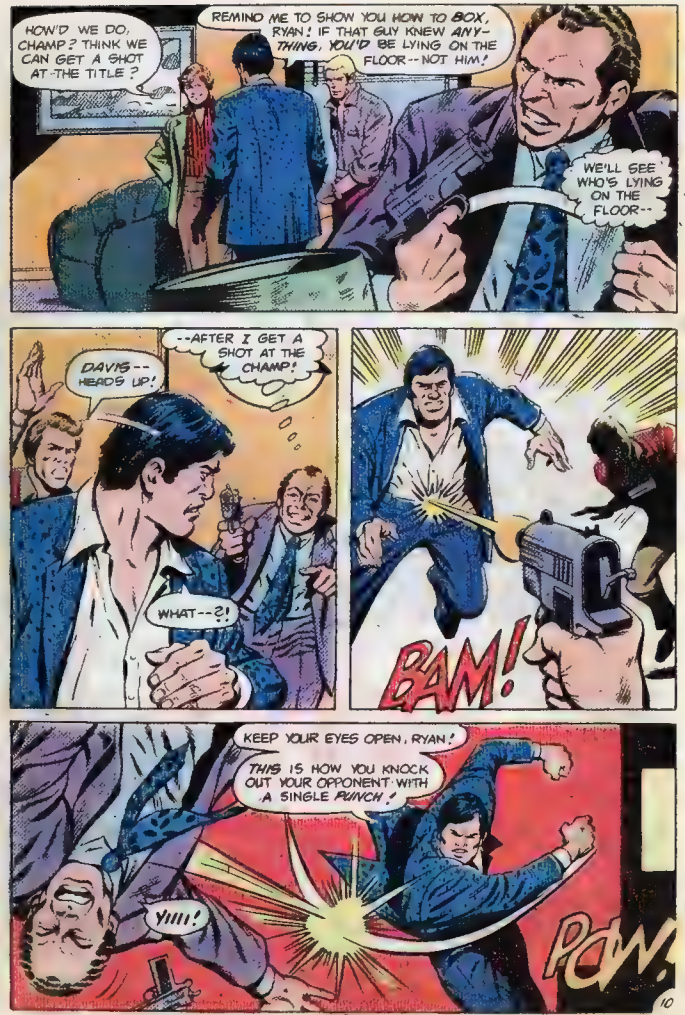
HE COST US A BUNDLE, BUT NOW THAT DAVIS IS OUT OF THE WAY, NOBODY CAN STAND BETWEEN OUR FIGHTER AND THE TITLE!
SOMETIMES, BOSS, I THINK YOU WAS BORN UNDER A LUCKY STAR!
IT TOOK MORE THAN LUCK TO GET ME WHERE I AM, LEO!
SPORT SECTION

AND, OUTSIDE THE DOOR...
YOU GUYS HEARD ENOUGH?
I THINK IT'S TIME WE TURNED THAT PARTY INSIDE...

...INTO A REAL SURPRISE!
FHWAM
CRIPES!
IT'S DAVIS!
IT CAN'T BE DAVIS--IT MUST BE A GHOST!

YOU THINK I'M A GHOST?!
THEN YOU DON'T GOTTA WORRY ABOUT ME LAYIN' A HAND ON YOU!
I'M WORRIED--I'M WORRIED!!
DON'T HIT ME!
COOL OFF--IT'LL ONLY BE A LITTLE LOVE TAP!
HOLD IT, DAVIS--
--WE HAVE NO PROOF THESE ARE THE MEN WE'RE AFTER!
YOU HIT HIM--HURT HIM--AND YOU'LL BE THE ONE THEY'LL TOSS IN JAIL!
YEAH, WELL--
--MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT!
SIDDOWN, CHUM--WE WANNA HAVE A LITTLE DISCUSSION!
URRP!
THRUMP

YOU WANT TALK, DAVIS? TOO BAD -- I'M NOT IN A TALKING MOOD!
SHOW THEM WHO'S IN CHARGE AROUND HERE, BOYS!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS!
SO MUCH FOR A CIVILIZED SOLUTION!
DON'T SWEAT IT, HALEY! YOU CAN ASK ALL THE QUESTIONS YOU WANT TO...
...AFTER OUR FRIENDS TAKE CARE OF HIS FRIENDS!
WOOOF!
WHOA! THIS IS LIKE PUNCHING INTO A MOUNTAIN OF JELLO!
IT COULD BE WORSE, KID! YOU COULD BE HITTING "GLASS JAW" HERE!
9


HOW'D WE DO, CHAMP? THINK WE CAN GET A SHOT AT THE TITLE?
REMIND ME TO SHOW YOU HOW TO BOX, RYAN! IF THAT GUY KNEW ANY-THING, YOU'D BE LYING ON THE FLOOR--NOT HIM!
WE'LL SEE WHO'S LYING ON THE FLOOR--
DAVIS--HEADS UP!
--AFTER I GET A SHOT AT THE CHAMP!
WHAT--?!
BAM!
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, RYAN!
THIS IS HOW YOU KNOCK OUT YOUR OPPONENT WITH A SINGLE PUNCH!
YIIII!
PAW!

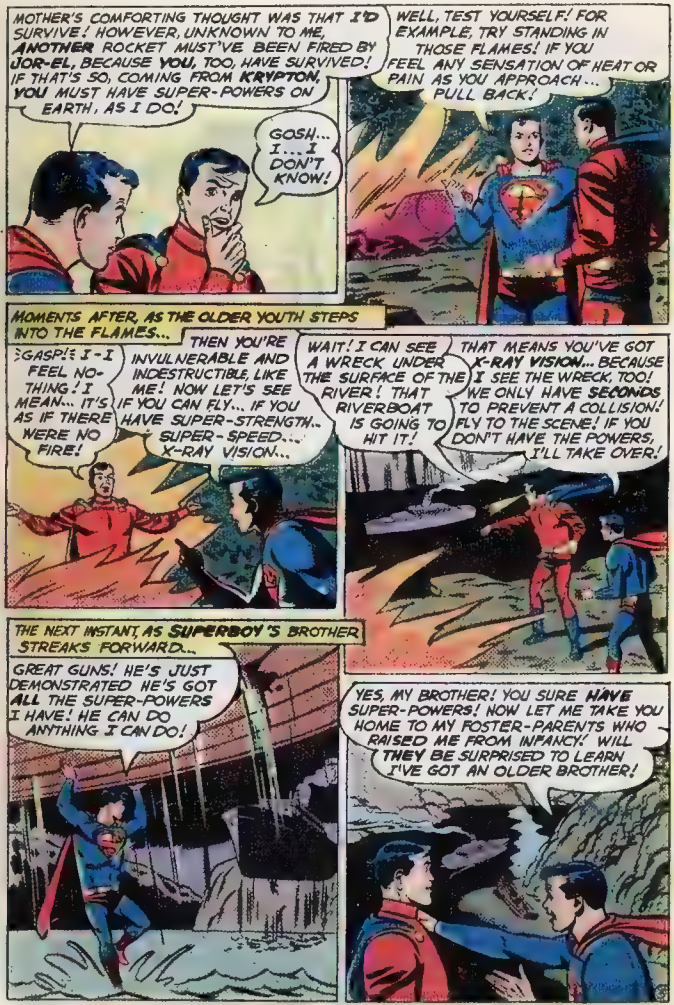
THAT WAS PRETTY NEAT, BUT HOW COME YOU AREN'T DEAD ?
HE SHOT YOU AT POINT BLANK RANGE !
YEAH--YOU MAY BE STRONG, BUT YOU SURE AREN'T SUPERMAN!
THE BULLET BOUNCED OFFA MY BELT BUCKLE!
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I'M LEADING A CHARMED LIFE !
DON'T SAY THAT! IT'LL SET HALEY OFF ON HIS TWILIGHT ZONE ROUTINE ABOUT "BORROWED TIME" AGAIN!
NO TIME FOR THAT NOW, RYAN!
WE GOT SOMEBODY ELSE HERE WHO'S GONNA BE THE STAR OF THE SHOW--AND SING A SOLO!
I...I...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
HONEST!
YOU BETTER BE TELLING THE TRUTH, BUD, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FOUR OF US CAN DO TO YOU!
BUT IF HE ISN'T LYING, WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE! AND WE'RE NO CLOSER TO WHOEVER WE'RE AFTER!
THE MYSTERY UNFOLDS FURTHER IN ADVENTURE #495! SEE YOU IN THIRTY!

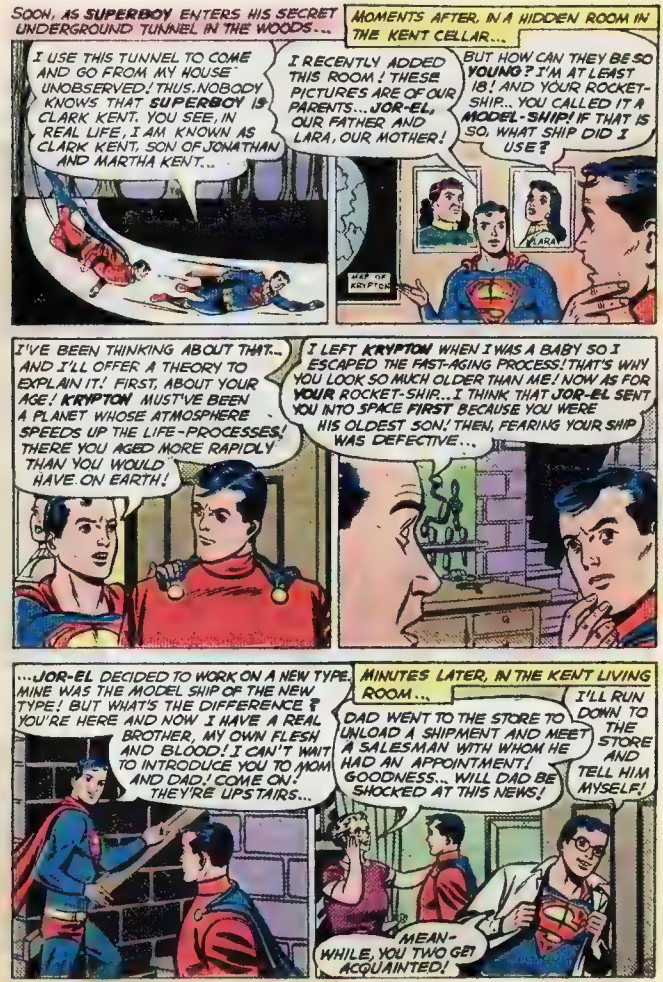
SUPERBOY
A LEGION SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL! ™
SORRY, MON-EL! I'LL EASE UP A BIT!
GOLLY, IT'S GREAT TO HAVE A BROTHER WHO ALSO HAS SUPER-POWERS! WE CAN PLAY BASEBALL IN OUTER SPACE, USING PETRIFIED TREES FOR BATS AND METEORITES FOR BASEBALLS!
GOSH, SUPERBOY! YOU BROKE MY BAT WITH YOUR "FAST BALL"!
PRESENTING A TERRIFIC TWO-PART NOVEL FEATURING SUPERBOY IN THE MOST BAFFLING EXPERIENCE OF HIS LIFE!
PART I... SUPERBOY'S BIG BROTHER!
ART BY GEORGE PAPO

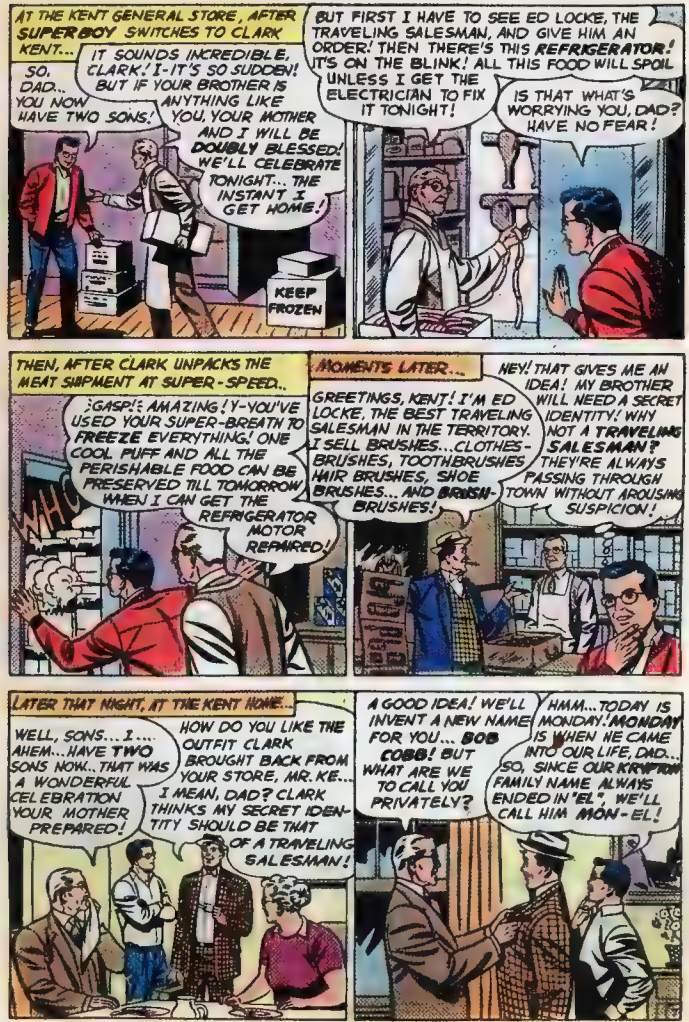
ONE EVENING IN SMALLVILLE, AS CLARK KENT WALKS HOME FROM AN OPEN SCHOOL NIGHT AT SMALLVILLE HIGH WITH HIS FOSTER PARENTS, JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT...
ISN'T IT A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT? LOOK AT ALL THOSE LOVELY STARS!
GREAT SCOTT, MOM! IT'S LUCKY YOU MADE ME LOOK UPWARD!
WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION, I SPOTTED THE FLAMING EXHAUST OF A ROCKET-SHIP ENTERING OUR ATMOSPHERE! I MUST SWITCH TO SUPERBOY AND INVESTIGATE! IN THESE SHADOWS NOBODY WILL SEE ME MAKE A LIGHTNING-LIKE CHANGE!
AN INSTANT LATER...
GOSH, SON... I... I DON'T SEE A THING UP THERE!
BUT I DO, DAD! UNLESS I INTERCEPT THAT SPACE SHIP IT'LL HIT THE EARTH NEARBY WITHIN TEN SECONDS! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I'LL MEET YOU AT HOME AS SOON AS I CAN!
SECONDS AFTER, AS THE BOY OF STEEL STREAKS UPWARD...
GASP! IT LOOKS LIKE A ONE-MAN SPACE VESSEL FROM ANOTHER WORLD! AND IT'S PLUNGING DOWN OUT OF CONTROL! IT'S SURE TO CRASH UNLESS I SET IT DOWN EASILY!
VERY SOON, AS SUPERBOY CARRIES THE MYSTERIOUS CRAFT GENTLY TO EARTH...
OH-OH! ITS FUEL TANKS ARE BURSTING INTO FLAME... JUST AS THE SUPER-FUEL, WHICH POWERED THE ROCKET THAT CARRIED ME, AS AN INFANT, FROM KRYPTON, MADE MY SUPER-VESSEL BURN UP ON REACHING THE EARTH! BUT THERE'S SOMEONE TRAPPED INSIDE!
WITH MY X-RAY VISION I CAN SEE HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! I MUST GET HIM OUT BEFORE THE FLAMES REACH HIM!
RR-RIPPP!
2

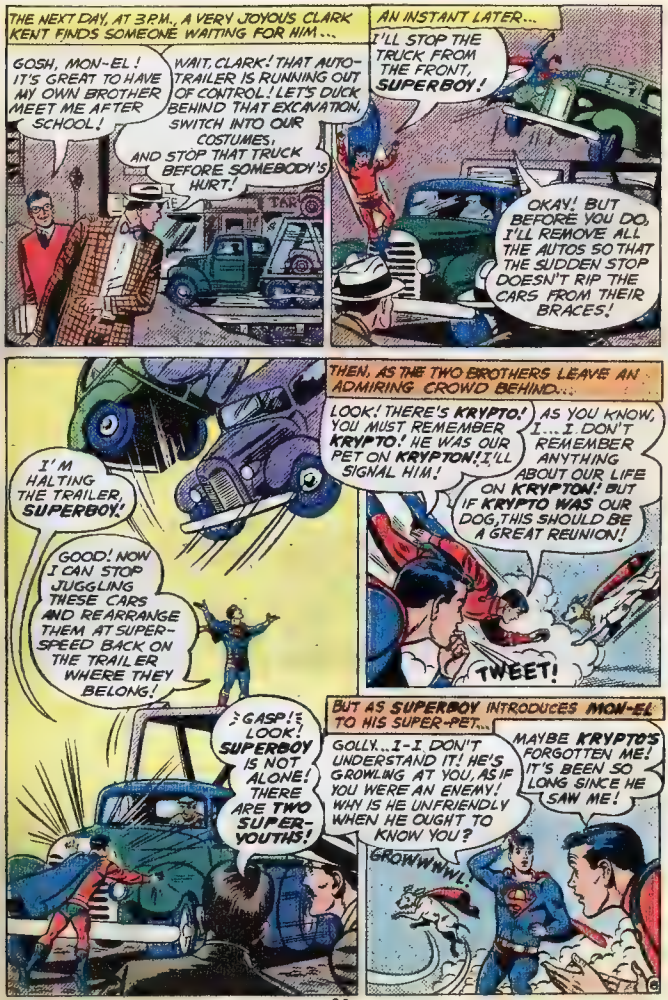
SHORTLY...
STRANGE! HE'S WEARING A COSTUME SIMILAR TO MINE... EXCEPT THAT THE COLORS ARE REVERSED! BUT WHO IS HE? MAYBE THIS LETTER IN HIS POCKET WILL EXPAIN...
BUT AS SUPERBOY READS THE FATEFUL PAPER...
GOOD HEAVENS! THIS NOTE IS IN THE KRYPTONESE HANDWRITING OF MY FATHER, JOR-EL, WHO DIED WHEN THE PLANET KRYPTON EXPLODED YEARS AGO! I'LL TRANSLATE JOR-EL'S WORDS INTO ENGLISH!
JOR-EL WRITES... "THIS CHART DESCRIBES THE SPACE COURSE TO BE TAKEN BY MY SON'S ROCKETSHIP ON ITS JOURNEY TO EARTH!" GASP! M-MY SON! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT JOR-EL HAD ANOTHER SON, OLDER THAN ME?
WHAT ELSE CAN IT MEAN? JOR-EL CALLS HIM "MY SON"! THEN HE MUST'VE HAD ANOTHER SON, OLDER THAN ME, WHOM HE ALSO TRIED TO SEND TO EARTH! IF SO, THEN THIS YOUTH IS MY OLDER BROTHER!
OHHHHH...
THEN, AS SUPERBOY SWIFTLY EXAMINES THE OLDER YOUTH WITH HIS MICROSCOPIC VISION...
THERE'S A MEDALLION AROUND HIS NECK, MADE OF KRYPTONESE METAL! IT'S INSCRIBED... "WITH ALL OUR LOVE AND GOOD WISHES, JOR-EL AND LARA"! MY MOTHER AND FATHER GAVE HIM THAT KEEPSAKE!
THAT PROVES HE'S MY BROTHER BEYOND ANY DOUBT! BESIDES, HIS PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND CLOTHING CONFIRM HE'S A NATIVE OF SOME OTHER PLANET LIKE KRYPTON! HE'S COMING TO NOW! I'LL TALK TO HIM AND LEARN THE TRUTH FROM HIS OWN LIPS!
OHHH... W-WHERE AM I?

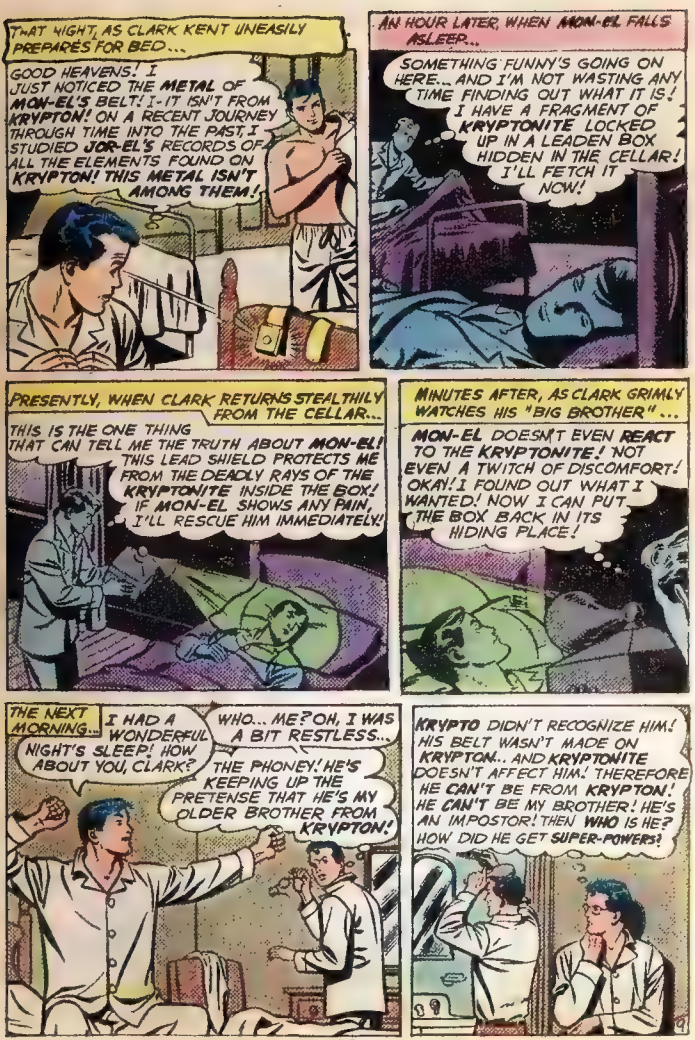
AS SUPERBOY GENTLY EXPLAINS TO THE DAZED STRANGER...
THERE WAS A NOTE IN YOUR POCKET WRITTEN IN KRYPTONESE BY A MAN NAMED JOR-EL! DOES THE NAME JOR-EL MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
I-I DON'T KNOW! MY MEMORY IS GONE!
THERE-WAS A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION... A SHOCK... I-I BLACKED OUT... THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER TILL I SAW YOU!
I UNDERSTAND! AFTER IT WAS FIRED, YOUR ROCKETSHIP MUST'VE DRIFTED THROUGH SPACE! YOU LAY IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND DIDN'T GROW ANY OLDER!
BUT YOU MENTIONED THE NAME JOR-EL! W-WHO IS JOR-EL?
HE WAS YOUR FATHER...OR RATHER, OUR FATHER! LISTEN TO ME! BY OVERTAKING LIGHT RAYS FROM THE PAST, I LEARNED THAT I WAS THE SON OF A GREAT SCIENTIST ON THE PLANET, KRYPTON...
"HIS NAME WAS JOR-EL! HIS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT HIS PLANET WAS DOOMED! "
IF THE RULERS OF KRYPTON WOULD ONLY HEED MY WARNING AND BUILD A FLEET OF ROCKETSHIPS LIKE THIS ONE, THE WHOLE POPULATION OF KRYPTON COULD BE SAVED!
AT LEAST WE CAN USE THAT MODEL ROCKET TO SAVE OUR BABY!
"MY FATHER HAD DISCOVERED THAT AN ATOMIC CHAIN-REACTION IN THE CORE OF THE PLANET HAD ALREADY BEGUN! BUT NOBODY BELIEVED HIM... "
KRYPTON EXPLODE? NONSENSE, JOR-EL! YOUR BRAIN HAS WEAKENED FROM TOO MUCH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH!
THEN THERE'S NO USE TALKING TO YOU! YOUR STUBBORN DISBELIEF HAS DOOMED EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET!
"OF COURSE MY FATHER WAS WRONG! NOT EVERYONE WAS DOOMED! HIS MODEL ROCKET COULD FIRE ONE PERSON INTO SPACE... ME!"
OUR SON IS NOW SAFELY ON HIS WAY TO THE PLANET EARTH!
YES, JOR-EL! IN A MOMENT BOTH OF US WILL PERISH AS OUR WORLD BLOWS UP! BUT I HAVE ONE COMFORTING THOUGHT...


MOTHER'S COMFORTING THOUGHT WAS THAT I'D SURVIVE! HOWEVER, UNKNOWN TO ME, ANOTHER ROCKET MUST'VE BEEN FIRED BY JOR-EL, BECAUSE YOU, TOO, HAVE SURVIVED! IF THAT'S SO, COMING FROM KRYPTON, YOU MUST HAVE SUPER-POWERS ON EARTH, AS I DO!
GOSH... I... I DON'T KNOW!
WELL, TEST YOURSELF! FOR EXAMPLE, TRY STANDING IN THOSE FLAMES! IF YOU FEEL ANY SENSATION OF HEAT OR PAIN AS YOU APPROACH... PULL BACK!
MOMENTS AFTER, AS THE OLDER YOUTH STEPS INTO THE FLAMES...
GASP! I-I FEEL NOTHING! I MEAN... IT'S AS IF THERE WERE NO FIRE!
THEN YOU'RE INVULNERABLE AND INDESTRUCTIBLE, LIKE ME! NOW LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN FLY... IF YOU HAVE SUPER-STRENGTH... SUPER-SPEED... X-RAY VISION...
WAIT! I CAN SEE A WRECK UNDER THE SURFACE OF THE RIVER! THAT RIVERBOAT IS GOING TO HIT IT!
THAT MEANS YOU'VE GOT X-RAY VISION... BECAUSE I SEE THE WRECK, TOO! WE ONLY HAVE SECONDS TO PREVENT A COLLISION! FLY TO THE SCENE! IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE POWERS, I'LL TAKE OVER!
THE NEXT INSTANT, AS SUPERBOY'S BROTHER STREAKS FORWARD...
GREAT GUNS! HE'S JUST DEMONSTRATED HE'S GOT ALL THE SUPER-POWERS I HAVE! HE CAN DO ANYTHING I CAN DO!
YES, MY BROTHER! YOU SURE HAVE SUPER-POWERS! NOW LET ME TAKE YOU HOME TO MY FOSTER-PARENTS WHO RAISED ME FROM INFANCY! WILL THEY BE SURPRISED TO LEARN I'VE GOT AN OLDER BROTHER!


SOON, AS SUPERBOY ENTERS HIS SECRET UNDERGROUND TUNNEL IN THE WOODS...
I USE THIS TUNNEL TO COME AND GO FROM MY HOUSE UNOBSERVED! THUS, NOBODY KNOWS THAT SUPERBOY IS CLARK KENT. YOU SEE, IN REAL LIFE, I AM KNOWN AS CLARK KENT, SON OF JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT...
MOMENTS AFTER, IN A HIDDEN ROOM IN THE KENT CELLAR...
I RECENTLY ADDED THIS ROOM! THESE PICTURES ARE OF OUR PARENTS... JOR-EL, OUR FATHER AND LARA, OUR MOTHER!
BUT HOW CAN THEY BE SO YOUNG? I'M AT LEAST 18! AND YOUR ROCKET-SHIP... YOU CALLED IT A MODEL-SHIP! IF THAT IS SO, WHAT SHIP DID I USE?
LARA
MAP OF KRYPTON
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT... AND I'LL OFFER A THEORY TO EXPLAIN IT! FIRST, ABOUT YOUR AGE! KRYPTON MUST'VE BEEN A PLANET WHOSE ATMOSPHERE SPEEDS UP THE LIFE-PROCESSES! THERE YOU AGED MORE RAPIDLY THAN YOU WOULD HAVE ON EARTH!
I LEFT KRYPTON WHEN I WAS A BABY SO I ESCAPED THE FAST-AGING PROCESS! THAT'S WHY YOU LOOK SO MUCH OLDER THAN ME! NOW AS FOR YOUR ROCKET-SHIP... I THINK THAT JOR-EL SENT YOU INTO SPACE FIRST BECAUSE YOU WERE HIS OLDEST SON! THEN, FEARING YOUR SHIP WAS DEFECTIVE...
...JOR-EL DECIDED TO WORK ON A NEW TYPE. MINE WAS THE MODEL SHIP OF THE NEW TYPE! BUT WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? YOU'RE HERE AND NOW I HAVE A REAL BROTHER, MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD! I CAN'T WAIT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MOM AND DAD! COME ON! THEY'RE UPSTAIRS...
MINUTES LATER, IN THE KENT LIVING ROOM...
DAD WENT TO THE STORE TO UNLOAD A SHIPMENT AND MEET A SALESMAN WITH WHOM HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT! GOODNESS... WILL DAD BE SHOCKED AT THIS NEWS!
I'LL RUN DOWN TO THE STORE AND TELL HIM MYSELF!
MEAN-WHILE, YOU TWO GET ACQUAINTED!


AT THE KENT GENERAL STORE, AFTER SUPERBOY SWITCHES TO CLARK KENT...
SO, DAD.. YOU NOW HAVE TWO SONS!
IT SOUNDS INCREDIBLE, CLARK! I-IT'S SO SUDDEN! BUT IF YOUR BROTHER IS ANYTHING LIKE YOU, YOUR MOTHER AND I WILL BE DOUBLY BLESSED! WE'LL CELEBRATE TONIGHT... THE INSTANT I GET HOME!
KEEP FROZEN
BUT FIRST I HAVE TO SEE ED LOCKE, THE TRAVELING SALESMAN, AND GIVE HIM AN ORDER! THEN THERE'S THIS REFRIGERATOR! IT'S ON THE BLINK! ALL THIS FOOD WILL SPOIL UNLESS I GET THE ELECTRICIAN TO FIX IT TONIGHT!
IS THAT WHAT'S WORRYING YOU, DAD? HAVE NO FEAR!
THEN, AFTER CLARK UNPACKS THE MEAT SHIPMENT AT SUPER-SPEED..
GASP!: AMAZING! Y-YOU'VE USED YOUR SUPER-BREATH TO FREEZE EVERYTHING! ONE COOL PUFF AND ALL THE PERISHABLE FOOD CAN BE PRESERVED TILL TOMORROW WHEN I CAN GET THE REFRIGERATOR MOTOR REPAIRED!
MOMENTS LATER...
GREETINGS, KENT! I'M ED LOCKE, THE BEST TRAVELING SALESMAN IN THE TERRITORY. I SELL BRUSHES...CLOTHES-BRUSHES, TOOTH-BRUSHES HAIR BRUSHES, SHOE BRUSHES... AND BRUSH-BRUSHES!
HEY! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! MY BROTHER WILL NEED A SECRET IDENTITY! WHY NOT A TRAVELING SALESMAN? THEY'RE ALWAYS PASSING THROUGH TOWN WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION!
LATER THAT NIGHT, AT THE KENT HOME...
WELL, SONS... I.... AHEM... HAVE TWO SONS NOW.. THAT WAS A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION YOUR MOTHER PREPARED!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THE OUTFIT CLARK BROUGHT BACK FROM YOUR STORE, MR. KE... I MEAN, DAD? CLARK THINKS MY SECRET IDENTITY SHOULD BE THAT OF A TRAVELING SALESMAN!
A GOOD IDEA! WE'LL INVENT A NEW NAME FOR YOU... BOB COBB! BUT WHAT ARE WE TO CALL YOU PRIVATELY?
HMM... TODAY IS MONDAY! MONDAY IS WHEN HE CAME INTO OUR LIFE, DAD... SO, SINCE OUR KRYPTON FAMILY NAME ALWAYS ENDED IN "EL", WE'LL CALL HIM MON-EL!


THE NEXT DAY, AT 3 P.M., A VERY JOYOUS CLARK KENT FINDS SOMEONE WAITING FOR HIM...
GOSH, MON-EL! IT'S GREAT TO HAVE MY OWN BROTHER MEET ME AFTER SCHOOL!
WAIT, CLARK! THAT AUTO-TRAILER IS RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL! LET'S DUCK BEHIND THAT EXCAVATION, SWITCH INTO OUR COSTUMES, AND STOP THAT TRUCK BEFORE SOMEBODY'S HURT!
AN INSTANT LATER...
I'LL STOP THE TRUCK FROM THE FRONT, SUPERBOY!
OKAY! BUT BEFORE YOU DO, I'LL REMOVE ALL THE AUTOS SO THAT THE SUDDEN STOP DOESN'T RIP THE CARS FROM THEIR BRACES!
THEN, AS THE TWO BROTHERS LEAVE AN ADMIRING CROWD BEHIND...
LOOK! THERE'S KRYPTO! YOU MUST REMEMBER KRYPTO! HE WAS OUR PET ON KRYPTON! I'LL SIGNAL HIM!
AS YOU KNOW, I... I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT OUR LIFE ON KRYPTON! BUT IF KRYPTO WAS OUR DOG, THIS SHOULD BE A GREAT REUNION!
TWEET!
I'M HALTING THE TRAILER, SUPERBOY!
GOOD! NOW I CAN STOP JUGGLING THESE CARS AND REARRANGE THEM AT SUPER-SPEED BACK ON THE TRAILER WHERE THEY BELONG!
BUT AS SUPERBOY INTRODUCES MON-EL TO HIS SUPER-PET...
GOLLY... I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! HE'S GROWLING AT YOU, AS IF YOU WERE AN ENEMY! WHY IS HE UNFRIENDLY WHEN HE OUGHT TO KNOW YOU?
MAYBE KRYPTO'S FORGOTTEN ME! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE HE SAW ME!
GROWWWWL!
GASP!! LOOK! SUPERBOY IS NOT ALONE! THERE ARE TWO SUPER-YOUTHS!


THAT NIGHT, AS CLARK KENT UNEASILY PREPARES FOR BED...
GOOD HEAVENS! I JUST NOTICED THE METAL OF MON-EL'S BELT! IT ISN'T FROM KRYPTON! ON A RECENT JOURNEY THROUGH TIME INTO THE PAST, I STUDIED JOR-EL'S RECORDS OF ALL THE ELEMENTS FOUND ON KRYPTON! THIS METAL ISN'T AMONG THEM!
AN HOUR LATER, WHEN MON-EL FALLS ASLEEP...
SOMETHING FUNNY'S GOING ON HERE... AND I'M NOT WASTING ANY TIME FINDING OUT WHAT IT IS! I HAVE A FRAGMENT OF KRYPTONITE LOCKED UP IN A LEADEN BOX HIDDEN IN THE CELLAR! I'LL FETCH IT NOW!
PRESENTLY, WHEN CLARK RETURNS STEALTHILY FROM THE CELLAR...
THIS IS THE ONE THING THAT CAN TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT MON-EL! THIS LEAD SHIELD PROTECTS ME FROM THE DEADLY RAYS OF THE KRYPTONITE INSIDE THE BOX! IF MON-EL SHOWS ANY PAIN, I'LL RESCUE HIM IMMEDIATELY!
MINUTES AFTER, AS CLARK GRIMLY WATCHES HIS "BIG BROTHER"...
MON-EL DOESN'T EVEN REACT TO THE KRYPTONITE! NOT EVEN A TWITCH OF DISCOMFORT! OKAY! I FOUND OUT WHAT I WANTED! NOW I CAN PUT THE BOX BACK IN ITS HIDING PLACE!
THE NEXT MORNING...
I HAD A WONDERFUL NIGHT'S SLEEP! HOW ABOUT YOU, CLARK?
WHO... ME? OH, I WAS A BIT RESTLESS...
THE PHONEY! HE'S KEEPING UP THE PRETENSE THAT HE'S MY OLDER BROTHER FROM KRYPTON!
KRYPTO DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM! HIS BELT WASN'T MADE ON KRYPTON... AND KRYPTONITE DOESN'T AFFECT HIM! THEREFORE HE CAN'T BE FROM KRYPTON! HE CAN'T BE MY BROTHER! HE'S AN IMPOSTOR! THEN WHO IS HE? HOW DID HE GET SUPER-POWERS!

SUPERBOY
PART 2
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SUPERBOY? THIS METEOR SHOWER CAN'T HURT US! WE HAVE SUPER-POWERS! WE'RE INDESTRUCTIBLE!
YOU'RE CRAZY, MON-EL! THOSE METEORS ARE MADE OF GREEN KRYPTONITE! T-THEY'RE DEADLY TO US!... GASP! I-I'M AFFECTED ALREADY! THIS IS THE END, MON-EL! WE'RE B-BOTH DOOMED!
WHO IS THIS IMPOSTOR WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE "BROTHER OF SUPER-BOY!" WHAT IS HE AFTER? WHY HAS HE LIED TO SUPERBOY ABOUT HIS IDENTITY AND HIS ORIGIN? YOU WILL GASP IN AMAZEMENT WHEN YOU FINALLY LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT SUPERBOY'S OLDER BROTHER IN...
The SECRET of MON-EL!

AT THE KENT BREAKFAST TABLE, THE NEXT MORNING, AS CLARK TRIES TO MASK HIS SUSPICIOUS FEELINGS...
SAY, CLARK... HOW ABOUT MY MEETING YOU AFTER SCHOOL? THEN WE CAN PATROL SMALLVILLE TOGETHER!
I WONDER WHAT MY PHONEY "BROTHER" IS UP TO?
ER... SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, MON-EL! I'LL SEE YOU AFTER CLASS!
AN HOUR LATER, AT SMALLVILLE HIGH, IN CLARK'S ENGLISH CLASS ...
I AM NOW PASSING OUT THE MIDTERM TEST PAPERS! ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS YOU CAN BEFORE THE BELL RINGS!
HMMM... WITH MY SUPER-INTELLIGENCE I CAN EASILY ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS WITHIN A FEW SECONDS!

BUT IF I RECEIVED PERFECT MARKS, I'D CREATE SUSPICION! SO, AS I DO WITH EVERY TEST, I'LL DELIBERATELY ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS WRONG! I'LL FEEL SAFER WITH A GRADE OF 90% RATHER THAN 100%!
AS THE TEST BEGINS...
HMM... HERE'S ONE QUESTION ON THE ORIGIN OF FAIRY TALES! FOR EXAMPLE, WAS THERE AN ORIGINAL CINDERELLA? COME TO THINK OF IT, I DID RUN ACROSS THE REAL CINDERELLA STORY ON ONE OF MY TRAVELS INTO THE PAST! I'D BETTER CHECK ON IT!
OF COURSE I KNOW THE ANSWER MY TEACHER WILL EXPECT... THAT NOBODY KNOWS THE REAL SOURCE OF A FAIRY TALE! BUT WE'LL SOON SEE IF SHE'S RIGHT!
MISS JOYCE! MAY I LEAVE THE ROOM FOR A DRINK OF WATER!
OKAY, CLARK! BUT HURRY BACK!
SHORTLY, AFTER CLARK SWITCHES INTO SUPERBOY, AT SUPER-SPEED...
300 B.C.
116
642
1180
NOW I'LL JOURNEY AT A SPEED THOUSANDS OF TIMES FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT INTO THE PAST! I WANT TO GO BACK TO ANCIENT EGYPT!
SECONDS LATER, AS THE BOY OF STEEL FINDS HIMSELF ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE RIVER, IN 4000 B.C. ...
HA, HA! MISS JOYCE PROBABLY FIGURES I'M OUT IN THE SCHOOL CORRIDOR TAKING A DRINK AT THE WATER FOUNTAIN! LITTLE DOES SHE KNOW I TRAVELED BACK ALMOST 6,000 YEARS TO QUENCH MY THIRST FOR...ER... KNOWLEDGE!
UH-OH! AN EAGLE SNATCHED UP THAT GIRL'S FUR SLIPPER FROM THE SAND, WHILE SHE WAS BATHING! I'LL FOLLOW THE BIRD AND GET IT BACK FOR HER!
STOP, EAGLE! STOP!

BUT AS SUPERBOY STREAKS AFTER THE BIRD, A SUDDEN THOUGHT STRIKES HIM.
NOW I-I RECALL THE LEGEND I WENT INTO THE PAST TO CHECK! IT'S HAPPENING BEFORE MY VERY EYES! THE EAGLE IS DROPPING THE SLIPPER UPON THE KING'S PALACE AT MEMPHIS!
AS SUPERBOY'S TELESCOPIC VISION WATCHES THE SLIPPER FALL IN THE LAP OF KING MYCERINUS AS HE PRESIDES OVER HIS COURT...
LO! THIS IS AN OMEN! I MUST FIND THE OWNER OF THIS TINY SLIPPER!
AN INSTANT LATER, AS SUPERBOY FLIES SIX MONTHS INTO THE FUTURE...
AT LAST, I HAVE FOUND THE FOOT THAT FITS THE SLIPPER! I SHALL MARRY HER AND MAKE HER QUEEN OF EGYPT! WHAT IS THY NAME, FAIR ONE?
RHODOPIS, SIRE!
1860
1210
600 B.C.
1200
IT WAS IN HONOR OF RHODOPIS THAT THE PHARAOH BUILT THE THIRD PYRAMID AT GIZEH... A MONUMENT TO THE ORIGINAL CINDERELLA! NOW I CAN STREAK BACK TO MY CLASSROOM...
MOMENTS LATER, AS SUPERBOY CHANGES BACK TO CLARK KENT...
DID YOU GET YOUR DRINK, CLARK?
YES, MISS JOYCE!
SHE'LL NEVER GUESS I TOOK TIME OUT TO TAKE A DRINK FROM THE NILE RIVER! NOW TO EXPLAIN ON MY TEST PAPER HOW THE RHODOPIS STORY BECAME CHANGED TO THE CINDERELLA STORY THROUGH THE CENTURIES!
AS CLARK FINISHES THE TEST FIRST AND GIVES HIS PAPER TO THE TEACHER TO MARK...
YOU GOT A GRADE OF 89, CLARK! YOU'D HAVE HAD A PERFECT PAPER, EXCEPT FOR THIS "ORIGIN OF CINDERELLA" ANSWER!
I NEVER HEARD OF RHODOPIS! AND HOW COME HER SLIPPER WAS MADE OF FUR, NOT GLASS?
BECAUSE IT WAS MADE OF FUR!
12

WHEN THE ANCIENT STORY WAS TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH TO ENGLISH, THE TRANSLATOR MISTOOK THE FRENCH "VAIRE" (FUR) FOR "VERRE" (GLASS)! THAT'S HOW CINDERELLA" GOT A GLASS SLIPPER, ALTHOUGH AS RHODOPIS, SHE WORE A FUR SLIPPER!
THIS IS AMAZING! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RHODOPIS?
I'M TRAPPED! HOW CAN I TELL HER I JUST FLEW INTO THE PAST TO LEARN THE FAIRY TALE'S ORIGIN?
NO REPLY, EH? WELL, I GUESS YOU'VE GOT A VERY VIVID IMAGINATION, CLARK! NOW TAKE YOUR SEAT!
BETWEEN CLASSES, AS CLARK WATCHES HIS GIRL FRIEND, LANG LANG, TAKE BALLET LESSONS...
I GUESS THE GIRLS CAN'T DANCE IN THE GYM BECAUSE THE FLOOR IS BEING PAINTED! HMMM... WITH A PUFF OF MY SUPER-BREATH I'LL SECRETLY HELP LANA DO A TERRIFIC BALLET LEAP!
OH, WHAT A MAGNIFICENT LEAP, LANA! YOU'RE ALMOST DRIFTING IN THE AIR LIKE A BIRD!
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT! I AM!
I GUESS I'M REALLY GETTING THE KNACK OF BALLET DANCING! MAYBE SOME DAY I'LL REALLY BE A BALLERINA!
WELL, AT LEAST MY HARMLESS LITTLE FEAT GAVE HER CONFIDENCE IN HERSELF!
LATER, WHEN SCHOOL LETS OUT AT 3 P.M...
HMMPPHH! THERE'S MY IMPOSTOR "BROTHER" MON-EL, WAITING FOR ME!
RIGHT! I CARRY ALL KINDS OF BRUSHES! PAINT-BRUSHES, SHOE-BRUSHES, TOOTH-BRUSHES, HAIR-BRUSHES AND...
ER, LANA... MEET A FRIEND OF MINE! HE'S A TRAVELING SALESMAN!
... BRUSH-BRUSHES! I'VE HEARD THE LINE BEFORE!
AH! BUT THE LITTLE LADY HASN'T! WHAT CAN I SELL YOU, MISS? DOES ANYTHING CATCH YOUR PRETTY EYE?
WELL, I COULD USE A NEW HAIR BRUSH! HOW MUCH IS THAT ONE?

As MON-EL BEAMS HIS X-RAY VISION AT LANA'S POCKET-BOOK...
LET'S SEE NOW... SHE'S GOT TWO PENNIES AND THREE QUARTERS!
WHY, THAT BRUSH WILL COST YOU A MERE 77 CENTS!
MON-EL IS CLEVER! JUST AS I'M DOING NOW, HE USED HIS X-RAY VISION TO COUNT THE COINS IN LANA'S PURSE!
ISN'T THAT FUNNY? I'VE GOT EXACTLY 77 CENTS! AND THAT BRUSH IS A TERRIFIC BUY FOR 77 CENTS!
ONLY TROUBLE IS... THE PRICE TICKET ON THE BRUSH READS $3.50! BUT I THINK I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT... AT SUPER-SPEED! FIRST, I'LL REMOVE THE $3.50 STICKER...
THEN, AS CLARK WATCHES, ASTONISHED...
GREAT GUNS! HE'S PEELING OFF THE "L.L." BOOK-MARKER INITIALS FROM ONE OF LANA'S BOOKS!
NOW HE'S PASTING THE INITIALS UPSIDE DOWN... SO THEY READ TT! GOSH, HE'S GOING TO SOME LENGTHS TO MAKE A HIT WITH LANA!
THERE, MY DEAR! A PRETTY BRUSH... BUT NOT HALF SO PRETTY AS THE HAIR IT WILL TOUCH!
THANK YOU! WHEN YOU COME TO SMALLVILLE AGAIN, PLEASE LOOK ME UP! I THINK YOU'RE VERY NICE!
THE RAT! HE'S TRYING TO TAKE MY GIRL FROM ME!
PRESENTLY, AS THE TWO "BROTHERS" ARRIVE AT THE KENT HOUSE...
CLARK! LOOK! THE LAMP IS GOING ON AND OFF! THAT'S THE SPECIAL SIGNAL WHICH MEANS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE, PROFESSOR LANG OR CHIEF PARKER IS TRYING TO CONTACT YOU BY RADIO!
I SEE IT, MOM! I'LL GO DOWN TO MY SECRET ROOM IN THE CELLAR AND FIND OUT WHY THEY'RE CALLING SUPERBOY!

SOON, AS CLARK TURNS ON THE SPECIAL SHORTWAVE SET IN HIS BASEMENT...
CALLING SUPERBOY! THIS IS CHIEF PARKER! HUGE LEAD BALLS ARE RAINING DOWN ON THE SMALLVILLE BANK, SMASHING IT OPEN! WE FEAR ROBBERY! COME AT ONCE! OVER!
YES, CLARK! I SEE IT WITH MY SUPER-VISION!
I SEE SOMETHING ELSE... THE CATAPULTS AND THE CROOKS USING THEM ON A HILLTOP OUTSIDE SMALLVILLE! I'LL STOP THE RAIN OF LEAD, MON-EL! YOU STOP THE CROOKS!
RIGHT! I'LL SWITCH INTO MY COSTUME INSTANTLY AND WE CAN LEAVE TOGETHER THROUGH YOUR SECRET TUNNEL!
SHORTLY... ON A RIDGE OVERLOOKING THE TOWN...
I'LL GIVE THEM EACH A LIGHT LOVE-TAP.. JUST STRONG ENOUGH TO KNOCK THEM COLD! HMM... THEY SURE COLLECTED PLENTY OF LEAD BALLS AS CATAPULT AMMUNITION!
I-IT'S SUPERBOY... OHHHHH!
MEANWHILE, AT THE BANK...
HEY! YOU'VE GOT SUPER-POWERS! STOP THOSE CROOKS!
GASP! I CAN'T! I FEEL WEAK SUDDENLY!
LET'S LAM, BOYS!
SHORTLY, AS SUPERBOY ARRIVES ON THE SCENE...
GASP! I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ME! I COLLAPSED AND THE THIEVES ESCAPED!
THE LIAR! HE'S PROBABLY IN CAHOOTS WITH THE CROOKS AND PRETENDED WEAKNESS SO THEY COULD GET AWAY! IT'S TIME I PUT AN END TO HIS MASQUERADE! HMM... I HAVE AN IDEA!
MAYBE YOU COULD STAND A CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE, MON-EL! LET'S ARRANGE A MEETING PLACE IN SPACE FOR A LITTLE SUPER-EXERCISE! I'LL JOIN YOU IN TEN MINUTES AFTER I ROUND UP THE ESCAPED CROOKS!
F-FINE! MY STRENGTH'S COMING BACK TO ME NOW...

MINUTES LATER, AFTER SUPERBOY STREAK'S TO THE KENT STORE TO GET SOME GREEN PAINT...
I WANT EACH LEAD BALL TO LOOK JUST LIKE KRYPTONITE, SO I'LL PAINT 'EM GREEN... DRYING THE PAINT INSTANTLY WITH A PUFF OF MY SUPER-BREATH!
NEXT...
NOW I'LL SHOT-PUT THE GREEN BALLS INTO SPACE SO THAT THEY'LL LAND ON THE PLANETOID MON-EL AND I PICKED AS A RENDEZVOUS POINT!
OF COURSE I'LL BE ON THE PLANETOID WITH MON-EL LONG BEFORE THEY ARRIVE. THEY'LL LOOK LIKE A METEOR SHOWER!
SECONDS LATER.ON THE PLANETOID!
HI, LITTLE BROTHER! YOU TIMED YOUR ARRIVAL JUST RIGHT! I JUST GOT HERE MYSELF! THAT BRIEF BIT OF WEAK-NESS SLOWED ME UP!
NOW TO STALL MON-EL UNTIL THE METEOR SHOWER ARRIVES!
ER... HOW ABOUT A GAME OF BASEBALL, MON-EL? YOU PITCH AND I'LL BAT WITH THIS TREE TRUNK I PICKED UP EN ROUTE!
SOON, AS SUPERBOY SWINGS AT MON-EL'S FIRST PITCH...
THIS COULD BE FUN... IF ONLY THE IMPOSTOR WERE MY REAL BROTHER!
LOOK, SUPERBOY! THE BOULDER SHEARED THE COVER OFF A LARGE BOX STANDING IN THE OPEN!
CRACK!
SPA-ANNNG!
16

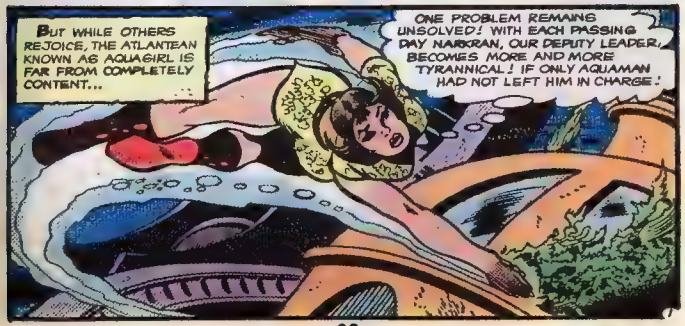
IT'S A JACK-IN-THE-BOX MONSTER... PROBABLY LEFT BEHIND IN A SPACE WRECK BY A WEIRD RACE OF SPACE PEOPLE WHO MAKE CRAZY TOYS! LET'S DESTROY IT! YOU TAKE ONE HEAD! I'LL TAKE THE OTHER! IT'LL BE A REGULAR DOUBLE-HEADER!
RIGHT!
SAY, THIS IS FUN, ISN'T IT, LITTLE BROTHER?
YEP! GREAT FUN! BUT LOOK WHAT'S COMING OUR WAY! A METEOR SHOWER!
IT'S THOSE LEAD BALLS I THREW INTO SPACE! THEY'RE JUST ARRIVING!
SO WHAT? THEY CAN'T HARM US! WE'RE INDESTRUCTIBLE!
Y-YOU'RE CRAZY, MON-EL! THESE METEORS ARE GREEN KRYPTONITE, DEADLY TO NATIVES OF KRYPTON! I-I'M AFFECTED ALREADY! THE STUFF IS ALL AROUND US! WE'LL SOON BE TOO WEAK TO MOVE! WE'RE DOOMED, MON-EL!
YOU...YOU'RE RIGHT! GASP! IT'S AFFECTING ME, TOO, NOW! I-I CAN'T BREATHE!...I F-FEEL TERRIBLY WEAK! HELP ME, SUPERBOY!...I-I'M DYING!
THE MISERABLE LIAR! I'M GOING TO CONFRONT HIM NOW! I'M GOING TO TELL HIM HE'S AN IMPOSTOR!
OKAY, MON-EL! CUT OUT THE DYING ACT! YOU'RE IN NO DANGER! THIS ISN'T KRYPTONITE! I CREATED THAT FAKE KRYPTONITE SHOWER TO PROVE YOU'RE A PHONEY! UNDERNEATH THE GREEN-PAINTED SURFACE, THESE BOULDERS ARE NOTHING BUT HARMLESS LEAD!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! ... I-I CAN HARDLY MOVE!

THOUGH EXPOSURE TO LEAD HAS CAUSED TERRIBLE MOLECULAR CHANGES IN MY BODY, DESTROYING ALL MY SUPER-POWERS, IT SHOCKED MY BRAIN OUT OF ITS STATE OF AMNESIA! MY MEMORY IS RESTORED! I RECALL EVERYTHING NOW!... GASP! I DON'T COME FROM KRYPTON!
I'M NOT YOUR BROTHER! I AM A NATIVE OF DAXAM, ANOTHER PLANET... WHERE LEAD AFFECTS DAXAMITES THE WAY KRYPTONITE AFFECTS YOU, EXCEPT THAT ITS EFFECTS NEVER WEAR OFF! ANY DAMAGE IS PERMANENT! NOW LISTEN... MANY YEARS AGO I MADE A ROCKET FLIGHT TO KRYPTON...
"MY ENGINE CONKED OUT AND I CRASH-LANDED ON KRYPTON! THERE I MET YOUR FATHER, JOR-EL, WHO BEFRIENDED ME AND, AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS, REPAIRED MY ROCKET SHIP! THEN ONE DAY..."
"JOR-EL DIDN'T NEED THE CHART, SINCE HE HAD MEMORIZED IT FOR HIS BABY SON, KAL-EL, WHOM HE INTENDED TO SEND TO EARTH, ALSO IN A MODEL ROCKET!"
YOU CAN'T STAY HERE! I JUST DISCOVERED THAT KRYPTON IS ABOUT TO BLOW UP! TAKE THIS CHART! IT WILL SHOW YOU THE COURSE TO FOLLOW TO ANOTHER INHABITED WORLD... THE EARTH!
BEFORE YOU GO, LAD, TAKE THIS LOCKET! IT IS INSCRIBED "WITH LOVE" FROM JOR-EL AND ME... BECAUSE WE LEARNED TO CARE FOR YOU DEEPLY, EVEN THOUGH YOUR STAY WAS SHORT!
COME, LARA! WE CAN'T DETAIN HIM ANY LONGER!
AND SO I TOOK OFF IN MY ONE-MAN VESSEL, WHICH INSTEAD OF REACHING EARTH, DRIFTED IN SPACE TILL A SHORT WHILE AGO!... GASP! THE REST YOU KNOW!
GOOD HEAVENS! SO THAT'S WHY KRYPTO DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU! THAT'S WHY YOUR BELT WASN'T MADE OF KRYPTONESE METAL AND WHY LEAD, INSTEAD OF KRYPTONITE, AFFECTS YOU! BUT WHY DID YOU TRY TO STEAL MY GIRL, LANA?
I DIDN'T! I WAS ONLY TRYING TO MAKE HER HAPPY BECAUSE I KNEW YOU LIKED HER! B-BUT NO MATTER NOW! I'M DYING! BECAUSE DAXAM HAS AN ATMOSPHERE AND GRAVITY SIMILAR TO KRYPTON'S, I HAD SUPER-POWERS ON EARTH, AS YOU DO! BUT THE LEAD CHANGED ALL THAT!

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY ENEMY, I PLAYED A FATAL TRICK ON YOU! BUT I'LL FLY YOU AWAY FROM HERE! THE EFFECTS OF THE LEAD WILL SOON WEAR OFF!
NO! IT'S NOT LIKE KRYPTONITE! ONCE EXPOSED TO LEAD, A DAXAMITE IS DOOMED! I'LL DIE WHEREVER YOU TAKE ME!
SUDDENLY, AS SUPERBOY GETS A DESPERATE IDEA.
IF YOU REMAIN IN THE REAL WORLD, YOU'LL DIE! BUT I CAN TRANSPORT YOU TO ANOTHER DIMENSION WHERE YOU COULD AT LEAST LIVE TILL I DISCOVER A CURE FOR THIS DEADLY MOLECULAR EFFECT LEAD HAS ON YOU! WILL YOU GO THERE?
YES-ONLY H-HURRY! I-I CAN'T LAST LONG!
SHORTLY, AS SUPERBOY STREAKS TO EARTH AND DIVES INTO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...
HERE'S WHERE I RECENTLY THREW A SEALED BOX CONTAINING SOME TERRIBLE WEAPONS USED ON KRYPTON BEFORE IT EXPLODED! ONE WEAPON WAS A PUNISHMENT RAY, USED TO EXILE KRYPTON CRIMINALS! ACCORDING TO A DESCRIPTION OF THE WEAPONS WHICH I FOUND IN THIS BOX...
...BY PRESSING A BLACK BUTTON TRAITORS, ENEMIES AND CRIMINALS OF KRYPTON WERE PROJECTED INTO A PHANTOM ZONE FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR SENTENCE AND COULD ONLY BE RECALLED BY PUSHING A WHITE BUTTON!
FOR SABOTAGING OUR FACTORY WITH A SUPER-BOMB, WE HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO 30 YEARS IN THE PHANTOM ZONE!
SOON, ON THE ASTEROID, AS SUPERBOY PLACES THE LEAD BOX AT A SAFE DISTANCE...
I MUST WARN YOU, MON-EL! THERE ARE DANGEROUS VILLAINS AT LARGE IN THE PHANTOM ZONE! LIFE MAY BE HARD...BUT AT LEAST YOU'LL BE ALIVE! AND I PROMISE YOU, IN THE FUTURE I'LL FIND A CURE FOR THE DEADLY EFFECTS OF THE LEAD... AND RETURN YOU TO THE REAL WORLD!
I'M NOT AFRAID, SUPERBOY! SEND M-ME TO THE PHANTOM ZONE!
AFTER SUPERBOY PRESSES THE BLACK BUTTON...
FAREWELL, BROTHER THAT YOU ALMOST WERE! DON'T FORGET ME! RESCUE ME SOME DAY FROM THIS INVISIBLE DIMENSION!
MON-EL, WHEREEVER YOU ARE... REMEMBER... I'LL FREE YOU SOME DAY WHEN I GROW UP TO BE SUPERMAN! I SWEAR IT!
THE END

AT LAST, THE SUBSTANCE WHICH BLACK MANTA INFUSED INTO THE DOME OF ATLANTIS HAS BEEN COUNTERACTED*... AND ONCE AGAIN, THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT UNDER-SEA CITY STAND IN LINE FOR THEIR SHOTS... THIS TIME TO BE TRANSFORMED BACK INTO WATER-BREATHERS...
INFIRMARY
* SEE AQUAMAN NO. 35

THEN, THE FINAL SHOT ADMINISTERED, WATER IS SLOWLY PUMPED BACK INTO THE HUGE DOMED COLONY...
AHH...
WATER! I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I WOULD MISS IT !!
LIVING IN AN AIR-BREATHING ENVIRONMENT HAS SEEMED SO UNNATURAL...SO UNCOMFORTABLE...


BUT WHILE OTHERS REJOICE, THE ATLANTEAN KNOWN AS AQUAGIRL IS FAR FROM COMPLETELY CONTENT...
ONE PROBLEM REMAINS UNSOLVED! WITH EACH PASSING DAY NARKRAN, OUR DEPUTY LEADER, BECOMES MORE AND MORE TYRANNICAL! IF ONLY AQUAMAN HAD NOT LEFT HIM IN CHARGE!

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT NARKRAN... BUT WHAT? PERHAPS, AQUALAD CAN COME UP WITH A COURSE OF ACTION!
HOSPITA
THE LAST TIME I TRIED TO SEE AQUALAD, THE DOCTORS WOULDN'T LET ME INTO HIS ROOM! BUT MAYBE TODAY...
OF COURSE YOU CAN SEE HIM NOW!
WE COULDN'T LET YOU IN BEFORE BECAUSE AT THE TIME, HE WAS SUFFERING FROM PARTIAL AMNESIA AND WAS QUITE VIOLENT! I FELT HE HAD TO GET OUT AND HELP AQUAMAN DEFEAT THE SORCERERS..
BUT AQUAMAN DEFEATED THEM WEEKS AGO...
PRECISELY! BUT AQUALAD DIDN'T REMEMBER THAT!
BUT HE'S COME ALONG QUITE WELL, AND IN A FEW MORE DAYS HE SHOULD BE OKAY!
ANYWAY, THIS IS HIS ROOM! YOU CAN ONLY STAY A FEW MOM-- HUH??
HE'S GONE!

NOW, SOME DISTANCE FROM ATLANTIS, AQUAMAN'S YOUNG ALLY BEGINS HIS QUEST... TO SAVE QUEEN MERA FROM THE SORCERERS OF THE SEA... LITTLE KEALIZING HOW FRUITLESS HIS JOURNEY WILL BE... NOR KNOWING WHAT PERILS FATE MAY PLACE IN HIS PATH! THIS THEN, IS AQUALAD'S STORY...
AQUALAD ™
EDITOR: DICK GIORDANO SCRIPT: STEVE SKEATES ART: JIM APARO
HAVE TO MOVE FAST! AQUAMAN MUST STILL BE IN THAT STRANGE, MYSTICAL LAND! PERHAPS HE, TOO, HAS FALLEN CAPTIVE TO THE SORCERERS! C'MON, IMP... GO!
"TO WIN IS TO LOSE!"

AWHILE LATER...
IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
I SHOULD HAVE SPOTTED THE WALLED-IN VILLAGE BY NOW... PERHAPS I'VE GOT MY BEARINGS CROSSED!
NO!! I KNOW THIS IS THE RIGHT SPOT! IT'S GOTTA BE HERE SOMEPLACE! BUT... BUT IT AIN'T!
WAIT! THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY CALLED THEMSELVES... SORCERERS! AND THEIR VILLAGE SHIMMERED, AS THOUGH IT WEREN'T REAL!
I WONDER -- COULD THEY HAVE ...HAVE VANISHED OR MADE IT APPEAR AS IF THEIR VILLAGE VANISHED, OR... OR... ??
AQUALAD PONDERS AND CONTINUES TO WANDER AIMLESSLY, UNAWARE THAT A GROUP OF STRANGE, HUMANOID CREATURES ARE WATCHING HIS MOVEMENTS SILENTLY...

THEN, SUDDENLY...
WHA--? WHO ARE THEY?! LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE... TRYING TO SURROUND ME!
BUT BEFORE THE YOUTHFUL ATLANTEAN CAN GET VERY FAR...
BAMMM!
NO MATTER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO, I'D BETTER GET OUTTA HERE-- NOW!!
WHEW! THEY'RE A LOT FASTER THAN THEY LOOK! BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY'VE WON--NOT BY A LONG SHOT!
I RECEIVED MY TRAINING FROM AQUAMAN HIMSELF-- THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS!
NUH?! A NET!! THEY'RE TRY!... UHHHHHH!

MOMENTARILY STUNNED BY THE UNEXPECTED PUNCH, AQUALAD IS EASILY NETTED, AND...
CAN'T BREAK OUT! NET'S TOO STRONG!!
BUT...WHERE ARE THEY TAKING ME? AND WHY??
AND WHILE AQUALAD AWAITS AN ANSWER... AQUAMAN, STILL SUFFERING FROM THE WOUND RECEIVED AT THE HAND OF BLACK MANTA* CONTINUES TO SEARCH THE OCEAN FLOOR...
CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS... WEAKENING! MUST HAVE THIS ARM ATTENDED TO... IMMEDIATELY!
* SEE LAST ISSUE.
WHAT! WHAT IN THE--??
SWIRL OF WATER... COMING OUT OF THAT CAVE... LOOKS LIKE THE WHIRLPOOL WHICH MERA'S CAPTORS USED AS CAMOUFLAGE WHILE THEY WERE TAKING HER!
CAN I HAVE FOUND THEM AT LAST?? COULD HER CAPTORS BE IN THIS CAVE?? AND MERA, TOO??
UNMINDFUL OF HIS WOUND, THE SEA KING SHOOTS FORWARD INTO THE ROUGH WATER... AND TOWARD THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE...
THESE WATERS WON'T STOP ME THIS TIME!! IF MERA'S HERE, I'LL MAKE HER CAPTORS PAY... NO MATTER WHAT THEIR MOTIVE WAS FOR TAKING HER!
HEY! THE SWIRLING WATER DOESN'T SEEM TO EXTEND INTO THE CAVE! LOOKS CALM IN THERE!

BUT NO SOONER DOES AQUAMAN ENTER THE CAVE THAN...
UNNGH! PRESSURE!..
UNBELIEVABLE PRESSURE... HITTING ME...FROM ALL SIDES!
BLACKING OUT! GOTTA HOLD ON! LET... MY BODY... ADJUST TO... PRESSURE IN... THIS CAVE...
SLOWLY, HIS BODY ADJUSTS... HIS BRAIN CLEARS... THEN, THE SEA KING OPENS HIS EYES, FIRST IN RELIEF... AND THEN WIDER, IN AMAZEMENT!
WHA-?!
GIANTS!..
HUGE, HULKING GIANTS... BUT THEY'RE NOT MOVING... THEY... LOOK ALMOST LIKE STATUES! AND YET... I CANT PUT MY FINGER ON IT, BUT... I'M SURE THEY'RE ALIVE!!

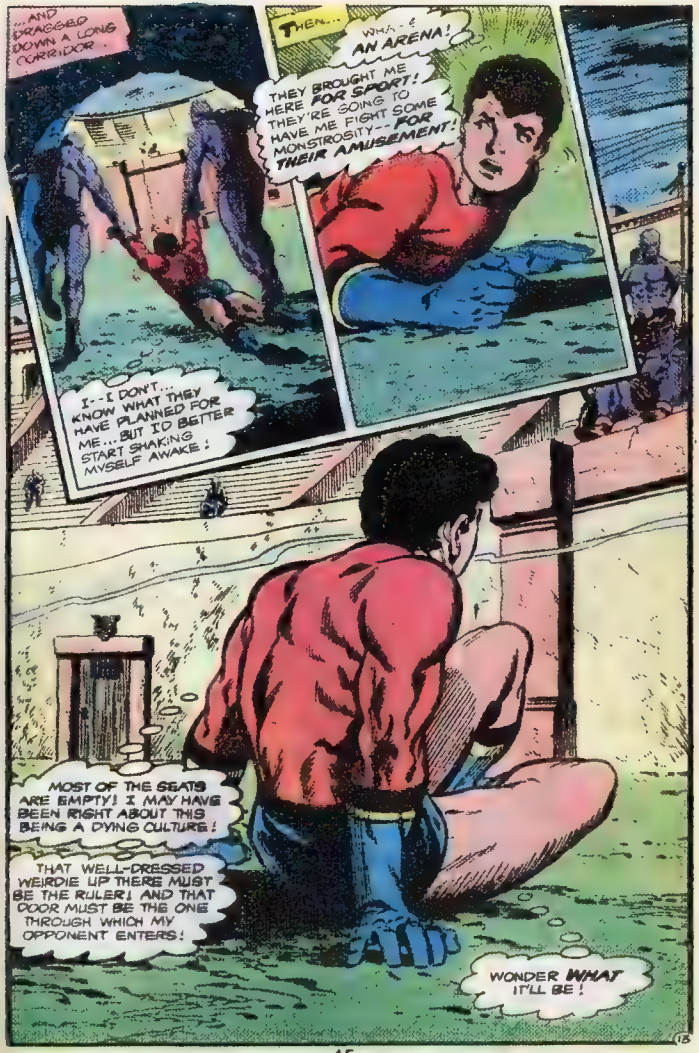
UNNN... MY ARM... STARTING TO ACHE AGAIN! THE CHANGE IN PRESSURE MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT...
HEY! DOWN THERE...
...A SURFACE MAN IN DIVING GEAR! HOW DOES HE FIT INTO THIS!?
HE'S SPOTTED ME!
I HOPE HE DOESN'T MEAN TROUBLE! I'M IN NO CONDITION TO FIGHT ANYONE! NOT WITH MY ARM THE WAY IT IS!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE MEANS ME ANY HARM, BUT I'D BETTER BE READY, JUST IN CASE!
BUT THE PAIN GROWS... BECOMING UNBEARABLE... AND THE LAST THING AQUAMAN SEES BEFORE LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE SURFACE MAN REACHING OUT TOWARD HIM...
I..I MUSTN'T PASS OUT! MUS... UNNNHH!..
WHEW!: ARM... REALLY STARTING TO THROB! ...MUSTN'T LET IT... GET THE BEST OF ME! GOTTA STAY WITH IT...
TIME PASSES... SLOWLY THE BLACK MIST DISSIPATES AND THE SEA KING AWAKENS, FINDING HIMSELF IN A SUBMARINE...
HUH ?! WHA... WHAT AM... I DOING HERE ?! HOW... ?!
SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO! THAT'S QUITE A NASTY WOUND YOU HAVE THERE!
MY NAME'S PHIL DAWSON! I'M AN AMATEUR EXPLORER! AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE, IF YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT FROM MY WORLD!
I AM CALLED AQUAMAN! I COME FROM THE LAND OF ATLANTIS!
THIS GUY SEEMS FRIENDLY ENOUGH! AND HE DID PATCH UP MY ARM!.. STILL, I'M NOT SURE I CAN TRUST HIM! BETTER PLAY IT COOL..I..TRY TO GET SOME ANSWERS!
LISTEN-- I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS OF MY OWN! FIRST OF ALL... THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE... DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM ?
HAPPENED TO THEM ?! OH, I SEE... YOU MUST THINK THEY'RE FROZEN IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION! I HAD THE SAME THOUGHTS MYSELF, WHEN I FIRST SAW THEM!

BUT ACTUALLY THEY ARE MOVING... AT A MUCH SLOWER RATE THAN WE MOVE! SO SLOW, IN FACT, THAT WE CANNOT SEE THEM MOVE! BUT AFTER BEING HERE FOR SOME TIME, I NOTICED THAT THEIR POSITIONS CHANGED FROM DAY TO DAY!
THEY EVIDENTLY HAVE A MUCH SLOWER METABOLISM THAN ANYONE FROM OUR WORLDS... PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED PRESSURE WITHIN THIS CAVE, WHICH CAUSED THESE PEOPLE TO EVOLVE THIS WAY!
THAT'S KINDA HARD TO BELIEVE! BUT WHAT ABOUT US!! WHAT MUST THEY THINK OF US?!
OH, I DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT THEY CAN EVEN SEE US! ESPECIALLY WHEN WE'RE MOVING! WE SIMPLY MOVE TOO FAST! AND IF WE STAND STILL FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, THEY PROBABLY SEE A BLURRY, GHOST-LIKE IMAGE OF US!
MATTER OF FACT, THIS COULD BE AN EXPLANATION FOR GHOSTS!, BEINGS FROM ANOTHER WORLD, WITH METABOLISMS MUCH HIGHER THAN OURS COME TO OUR WORLD AND WE ONLY SEE A BLURRED IMAGE OF THEM WHEN THEY STAND STILL IN ONE SPOT! AND WE CALL THIS BLURRED IMAGE A GHOST!
THAT'S AN INTERESTING THOUGHT! BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS SHIP? CAN'T THEY SEE THIS SHIP?
WELL, I MOVE THE SHIP EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE! I SUPPOSE THEY DO CATCH SIGHT OF IT, OCCASIONALLY! BUT THEY NEVER GET A CHANCE TO DO ANY-THING ABOUT IT!
ONE MORE QUESTION! THAT SWIRLING WATER OUTSIDE THE CAVE! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S CAUSING IT?
IT'S A NATURAL PHENOMENON CAUSED BY THE DIFFERING PRESSURES HERE AND OUTSIDE THE CAVE! I HAVE SEEN THIS SORT OF THING BEFORE... SOME SCIENTISTS FROM MY WORLD HAVE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH VARYING WATER PRESSURES AND HAVE ARTIFICIALLY PRODUCED SWIRLING WATER SUCH AS THAT OUT THERE!
WHAT!!

THEN, PERHAPS IT WAS SURFACE MEN WHO TOOK MERA! THEY KNOW HOW TO PRODUCE SUCH WHIRLPOOLS, AND...
BUT CAN I TRUST THIS MAN? HE COULD BE INVOLVED IN MERA'S KIDNAPPING AND KNOWS WHY I WAS ASKING ABOUT THE SWIRL! MAYBE HE GAVE ME THAT ANSWER TO THROW ME OFF AND SEND ME ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE!
AS THE SEA KING PONDERS THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS, LET US TRAVEL ACROSS THE OCEAN FLOOR... AND FOLLOW A STRANGE PROCESSION AS IT NEARS ITS DESTINATION...
THIS VALLEY! NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE! SO BARREN... DEAD! NO SEA-WEED... NO VEGETATION AT ALL... NOTHING EXCEPT FOR THESE STRANGE CREATURES... AND AN OVER-POWERING SENSE OF FOREBODING... THAT MUST BE WHERE THEY'RE TAKING ME -- THAT CRUDE VILLAGE DOWN THERE!
ALL THE BUILDINGS SEEM TO BE FALLING APART! THERE ARE VERY FEW PEOPLE AROUND! AND... AND I SEE NO YOUNGSTERS AT ALL!
IT'S AS THOUGH THESE ARE THE LAST MEMBERS OF A DECAYING AND DYING RACE!
AQUALAD IS CARRIED INTO A CRUMBLING BUILDING... A CELL DOOR IS OPENED... AND...
THEY'RE PLANNING ON KEEPING ME HERE! GOTTA GET OUT... WHILE I STILL CAN!

SUDDENLY, THE YOUNGSTER SPRINGS INTO ACTION...
I CAN SMELL THE ODOR OF DECAY...
... AND DEATH!
I WON'T ALLOW THEM TO KEEP ME IN THIS ROTTING PLACE... I WON'T !!
UNNGH!! BEAR HUG!!
HE FIGHTS WELL! HE MAY WELL BE THE ONE WE SEEK!
WE WILL KNOW SOON— ONCE HE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE TEST!
NOTE: CREATURE CONVERSATION FREELY TRANSLATED BY THE AUTHOR.
AN HOUR LATER, THE NOT-FULLY-CONSCIOUS AQUALAD IS YANKED OUT OF HIS CELL...


...AND DRAGGED DOWN A LONG CORRIDOR.
I--I DON'T... KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED FOR ME... BUT I'D BETTER START SHAKING MYSELF AWAKE!
THEN...
WHA--? AN ARENA!
THEY BROUGHT ME HERE FOR SPORT! THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE ME FIGHT SOME MONSTROSITY--FOR THEIR AMUSEMENT!
MOST OF THE SEATS ARE EMPTY! I MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT ABOUT THIS BEING A DYING CULTURE!
THAT WELL-DRESSED WEIRDIE UP THERE MUST BE THE RULER! AND THAT DOOR MUST BE THE ONE THROUGH WHICH MY OPPONENT ENTERS!
WONDER WHAT IT'LL BE!

AND YET, THE RULER DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TAKING THIS AS A GAME! HE'S DEADLY SERIOUS! AS THOUGH THERE WERE MORE TO THIS THAN SIMPLY ENTERTAINMENT!
UH-OH! THERE'S THE SIGNAL!
SLOWLY, THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN...
HUH ?? -- IT'S ONE OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES!!
GOTTA... BE READY... FOR ANYTHING!
THIS ISN'T AS BADAS I EXPECTED! STILL... HE'S ARMED AND I'M NOT!
HERE HE COMES! LOOKS LIKE THIS IS GONNA HAVE TO BE A FIGHT TO THE FINISH!
HAVE TO PLAY THIS TIGHT! LET HIM GET CLOSE... SO THAT I'LL BE IN A POSITION TO GET IN MY LICKS!!

YOW! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE! THESE CREEPS ARE A LOT MORE AGILE THAN THEY LOOK!
WHOOSSH
I HAVE TO USE EVERY TRICK I KNOW-- IF I WANNA GET OUTTA THIS THING ALIVE!
15

UNNN! THAT PUNCH HARDLY SLOWED HIM... HE'S SHAKING IT RIGHT OFF...
BU K
I'M IN TOO CLOSE... HE CAN'T USE HIS WEAPON! AND HE ISN'T VERY GOOD WITH HIS FIST!
NOW!
SWISH
PUMP
THERE! THAT'LL GIVE 'IM SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!
THIS ISN'T GETTING ME ANYWHERE! GOTTA FIGURE A WAY TO END THIS BATTLE!
SWISH
I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE'S GETTING THE BEST OF ME... FOR AWHILE!

AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE BARBARIC CREATURE SWINGS HIS DEADLY WEAPON... AND AQUALAD, SEEMINGLY POWERLESS, STUMBLES BACK...
STRANGELY, THOSE IN THE STANDS DO NOT CHEER...BUT INSTEAD WEAR EXPRESSIONS OF WONDER AND WORRY...
THEN...
YOU'RE TOO EAGER TO DO ME IN, BUDDY... JUST AS I HOPED...
AND NOW--
--IT'S MY TURN TO CALL THE SHOTS!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
HUH?! WHAT ARE THEY APPLAUDING NOW FOR? I SHOULD THINK THEY'D BE ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM... NOT ME!

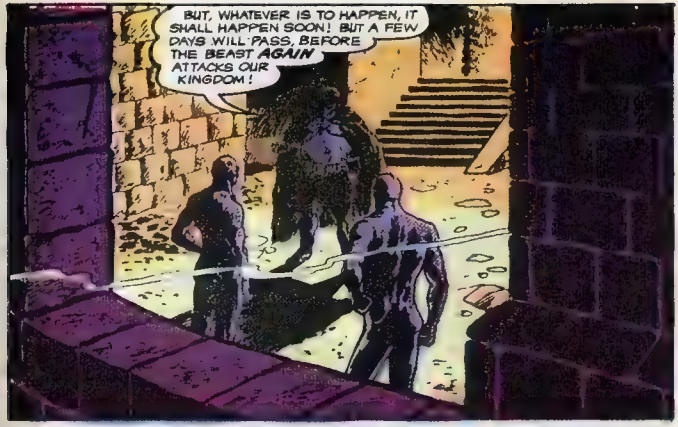
UNNGH!
WHOOPS! GOTTA KEEP MY MIND ON MY WORK! HE'S STRONGER THAN I! AND QUITE A BIT MORE AGILE THAN HE LOOKS...
...BUT STILL I'M MORE AGILE THAN HE!
HEY.. WHAT'S WRONG WITH... ME!? PAIN... IN MY HEAD... KEEPS GROWING... GOTTA FIGHT IT OFF!.. CONCENTRATE ON BEATING THIS GUY!
THEN, AS AQUALAD CONTINUES TO FIGHT, THE CLOUD BEGINS TO LIFT FROM HIS MEMORIES...
SLOWLY, HE REALIZES HOW FOOLISH HIS QUEST WAS... SLOWLY, HE REMEMBERS HOW AQUAMAN RETURNED FROM THE LAND OF THE SORCERERS AND TOLD HIM THAT MERA WAS NOT THERE...
AND FINALLY HE RECALLS HOW AQUAMAN NEXT SET OUT FOR THE LAND OF THE MAARZONS... TO SEARCH FOR MERA THERE!
THEN...
HEY! I DID IT!! I KNOCKED HIM COLD!!
I WAS SO CONCERNED WITH MY OWN THOUGHTS, I DIDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO WHAT I WAS DOING!

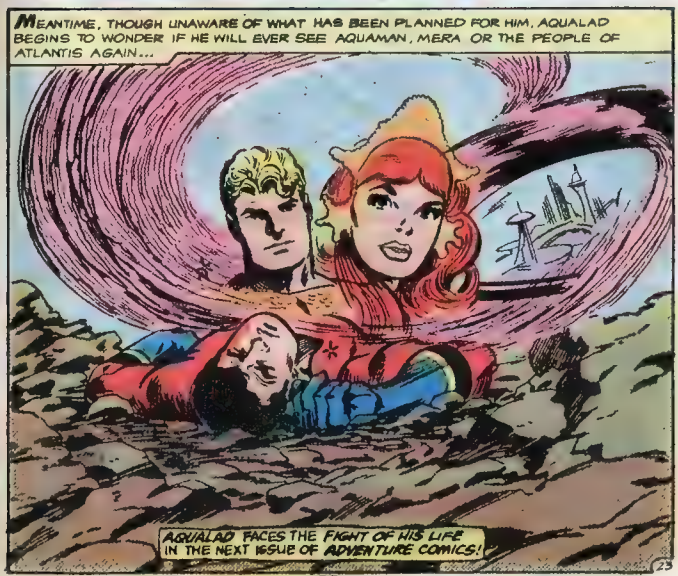
THEN, SUDDEN SOUNDS CAUSE THE LAD TO TURN HIS HEAD...
WHA-? I WON AND THEY'RE CHEERING ME! THEY WANTED ME TO WIN!!
BUT, WHY?!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
UH-OH! HERE COME SOME ANSWERS... THE GOON SQUAD AGAIN! COMING TO LOCK ME UP, I BET! I CAN'T MAKE SENSE OUT OF ANYTHING THAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE...
...BUT NO MATTER WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, I CAN'T STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT! IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT I GET OUT--NOW THAT I KNOW WHERE I MUST GO!
BUT HOW AM I GONNA GET OUT? IT'S A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THESE CREATURES KNOCK ME SILLY!
AND AS AQUALAD TRIES TO FIGHT HIS WAY TO FREEDOM, LET'S SWITCH OUR SCENE TO ATLANTIS, WHERE...
WHA-?
RRUMBLE
AN EARTHQUAKE OF SOME SORT! IT WILL DESTROY ATLANTIS

A SUDDEN UPHEAVAL... ATLANTIS IS IN TURMOIL... AS THE GROUND BELOW THE GREAT DOMED CITY BEGINS TO SLOWLY RISE...
GOOD LORD! WHAT SHALL WE DO??
EEEEEEE
WE'RE DOOMED!
IF ONLY AQUAMAN WERE HERE!

THEN, AS QUICKLY AS IT BEGAN..
IT HAS ENDED!
DR. VULKO! YOU ARE OUR MOST RESPECTED SCIENTIST... TELL US--WHAT'S HAPPENING? IS IT ALL OVER WITH, OR... OR WILL IT BEGIN AGAIN?
I REALLY CAN'T SAY WITHOUT COMPLETELY STUDYING THE SITUATION! BUT I DO KNOW THAT THIS HAS BEEN A NATURAL UPHEAVAL OF SOME SORT, POSSIBLY VOLCANIC IN ORIGIN! AND IN THAT CASE, THERE'S A VERY STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST TREMOR...
THERE IS NO TIME FOR FURTHER SPECULATION! I MUST STUDY THE SITUATION! BUT FIRST I HAVE TO SEE NARKRAN! HE IS THE TEMPORARY LEADER OF ATLANTIS AND MUST DECIDE WHAT WE WILL DO, IF THE WORST DOES BEFALL US!
..BUT IF THIS DOES BEGIN AGAIN.. AND BROWS HOWES... IT COULD MEAN THE END OF ATLANTIS AS WE NOW KNOW IT!
MEANWHILE... BACK IN THE STRANGE, FOREBODING VALLEY... AQUALAD HAS SUCCUMBED TO THE WEIRD NATIVE CREATURES, AND IS NOW BEING CARRIED BACK DOWN THE LONG CORRIDOR...
HURRY! HE IS BEGINNING TO AWAKEN! WE MUST GET HIM INTO THE CELL... AT ONCE!!
UHHHH...

AND, EVEN AS THE YOUTHFUL ATLANTEAN IS TOSSED INTO HIS CELL...
MEN OF ELDFUR, WE HAVE OBSERVED THE OUTSIDER AND SEEN HOW HE FIGHTS! HE EASILY DEFEATED OUR GREATEST WARRIOR! IT COULD WELL BE, THEN, THAT HE IS THE MAN WE NEED!
WE ARE EXPECTING A GREAT DEAL FROM HIM! EXPECTING EVEN, IF NEED BE, HE DIE FOR US!!
OURS IS A DYING KINGDOM! EACH YEAR, THE DREAD, MONSTROUS CREATURE KNOWN AS THE BUGALA SEEKS TO DESTROY OUR LAND! AND EACH YEAR, OUR ARMY TURNS HIM BACK!
THIS HAS GONE ON, YEAR AFTER YEAR! BUT NOW, OUR ARMY IS SMALL! MANY OF OUR YOUNG MEN WERE KILLED IN LAST YEAR'S BATTLE WITH THE BUGALA!
NOW, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEEK OUTSIDE HELP! PERHAPS, ONE AS STRONG AS THIS YOUNG MAN CAN LEAD OUR ARMY TO VICTORY AGAINST THE MONSTER!
IF ONLY THAT COULD BE! IF ONLY THE CREATURE COULD BE DEFEATED, INSTEAD OF SIMPLY TURNED BACK! THEN, THIS COULD BECOME A LIVING KINGDOM, ONCE AGAIN!


BUT, WHATEVER IS TO HAPPEN, IT SHALL HAPPEN SOON! BUT A FEW DAYS WILL PASS, BEFORE THE BEAST AGAIN ATTACKS OUR KINGDOM!


MEANTIME, THOUGH UNAWARE OF WHAT HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR HIM, AQUALAD BEGINS TO WONDER IF HE WILL EVER SEE AQUAMAN, MERA OR THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS AGAIN...
AQUALAD FACES THE FIGHT OF HIS LIFE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ADVENTURE COMICS!
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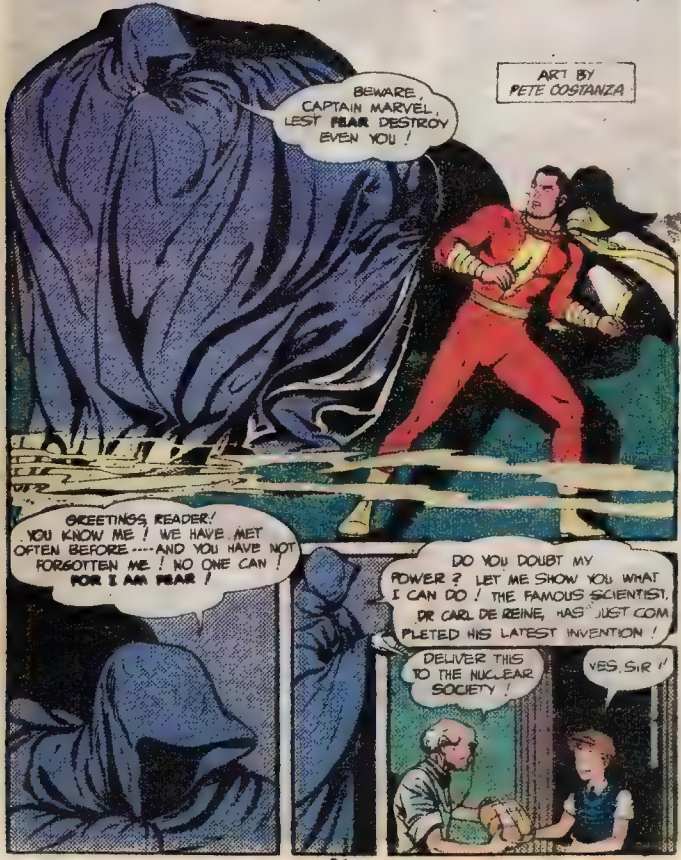
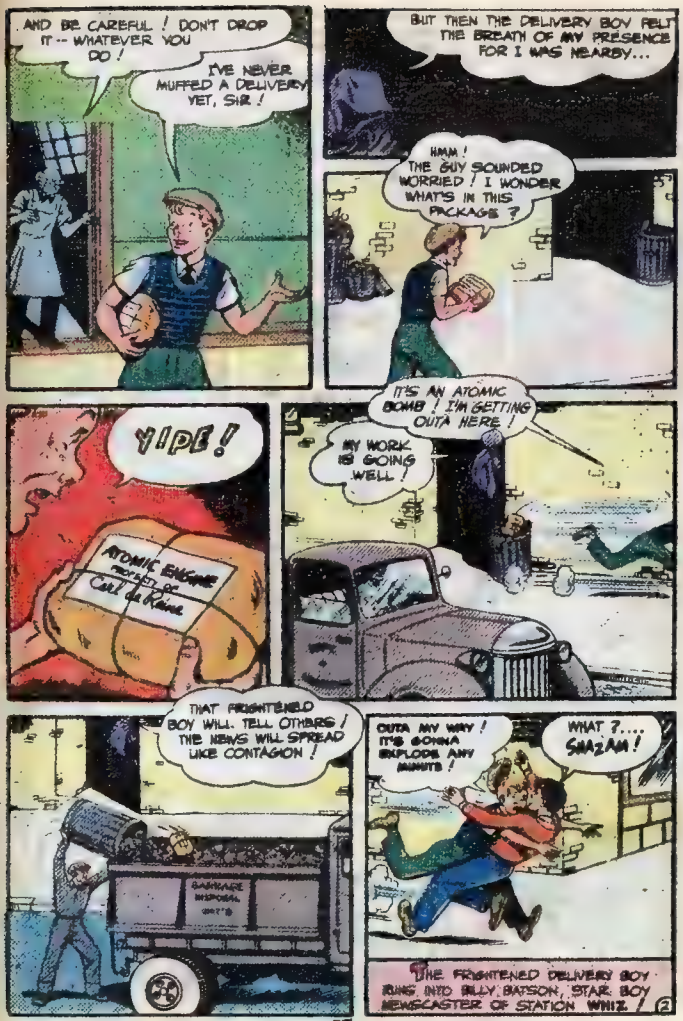
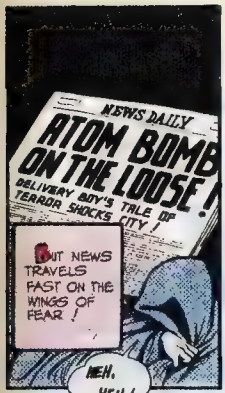
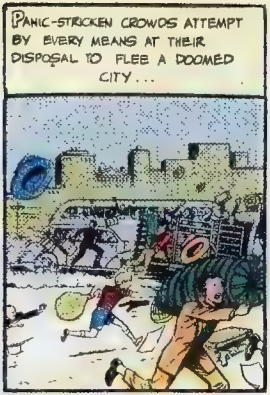
Captain MARVEL FACES FEAR!

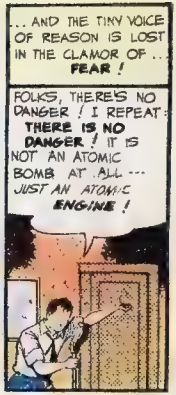

ART BY PETE COSTANZA
BEWARE, CAPTAIN MARVEL, LEST FEAR DESTROY EVEN YOU!
GREETINGS, READER! YOU KNOW ME! WE HAVE MET OFTEN BEFORE---AND YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN ME! NO ONE CAN! FOR I AM FEAR!
DO YOU DOUBT MY POWER? LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN DO! THE FAMOUS SCIENTIST, DR CARL DE REINE, HAS JUST COMPLETED HIS LATEST INVENTION!
DELIVER THIS TO THE NUCLEAR SOCIETY!
YES, SIR!

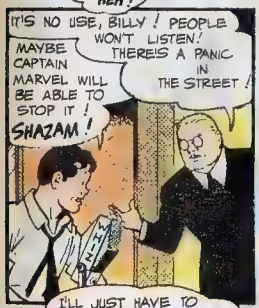

AND BE CAREFUL ! DON'T DROP IT -- WHATEVER YOU DO !
I'VE NEVER MUFFED A DELIVERY YET, SIR !
BUT THEN THE DELIVERY BOY FELT THE BREATH OF MY PRESENCE FOR I WAS NEARBY...
HMM ! THE GUY SOUNDED WORRIED ! I WONDER WHAT'S IN THIS PACKAGE ?
YIPE !
ATOMIC ENGINE
IT'S AN ATOMIC BOMB ! I'M GETTING OUTA HERE !
MY WORK IS GOING WELL !
THAT FRIGHTENED BOY WILL TELL OTHERS ! THE NEWS WILL SPREAD LIKE CONTAGION !
GARBAGE DISPOSAL
OUTA MY WAY ! IT'S GONNA EXPLODE ANY MINUTE !
WHAT ?.... SWAZAM !
THE FRIGHTENED DELIVERY BOY RUNS INTO BILLY BATSON, STAR BOY NEWSCASTER OF STATION WHIZ !

WHENEVER BILLY BATSON SAYS THE MAGIC NAME OF THE OLD SORCERER, HE IS ANSWERED BY A BLAZE OF MAGIC LIGHTNING THAT CHANGES HIM INTO CAPTAIN MARVEL!
BOOM
JUST A SECOND, YOUNGSTER! DID YOU SAY SOMETHING WAS GOING TO EXPLODE?
AN ATOMIC BOMB, THAT'S ALL! LEMME GO!
YOU'RE JOKING!
N-NO, I'M N-NOT! H-HONEST! I'LL S-SHOW YOU WHERE I L-LEFT IT!
IT WAS RIGHT THERE! I THREW IT IN THAT GARBAGE CAN!
BUT IT'S GONE NOW! YOU'D BETTER TELL ME HOW YOU HAPPENED TO GET THE BOMB!
SOON...
WAIT RIGHT HERE! I MAY NEED YOU!
Y-YES, SIR!
CAPTAIN MARVEL'S CRAZY! I'M NOT WAITING AROUND ANY PLACE WHERE THEY MANUFACTURE ATOMIC BOMBS!
MEANWHILE...
I SEE! THEN THERE ISN'T ANY REAL REASON FOR ALARM!
NONE WHATEVER! MY ATOMIC ENGINE IS ABSOLUTELY HARMLESS!
THEN WE'D BETTER EXPLAIN THAT TO THE DELIVERY BOY BEFORE HE SPREADS ANY MORE STORIES! ULP! HE'S DISAPPEARED!
I HOPE HE DOESN'T CAUSE MORE TROUBLE! IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT MY INVENTION HAS BEEN MISPLACED!
3

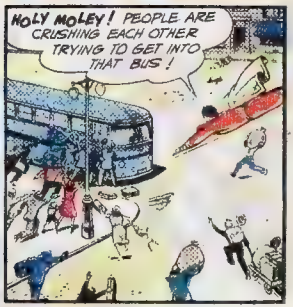

NEWS DAILY
ATOM BOMB ON THE LOOSE!
DELIVERY BOY'S TALE OF TERROR SHOCKS CITY!
BUT NEWS TRAVELS FAST ON THE WINGS OF FEAR!

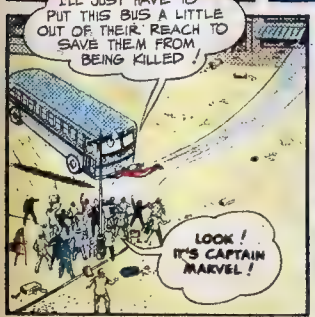

PANIC-STRICKEN CROWDS ATTEMPT BY EVERY MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO FLEE A DOOMED CITY...

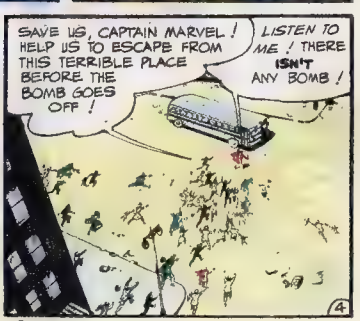

...AND THE TINY VOICE OF REASON IS LOST IN THE CLAMOR OF... FEAR!
FOLKS, THERE'S NO DANGER! I REPEAT: THERE IS NO DANGER! IT IS NOT AN ATOMIC BOMB AT ALL --- JUST AN ATOMIC ENGINE!


HEH, HEH!
IT'S NO USE, BILLY! PEOPLE WON'T LISTEN! THERE'S A PANIC IN THE STREET!
MAYBE CAPTAIN MARVEL WILL BE ABLE TO STOP IT! SHAZAM!

BOOM!

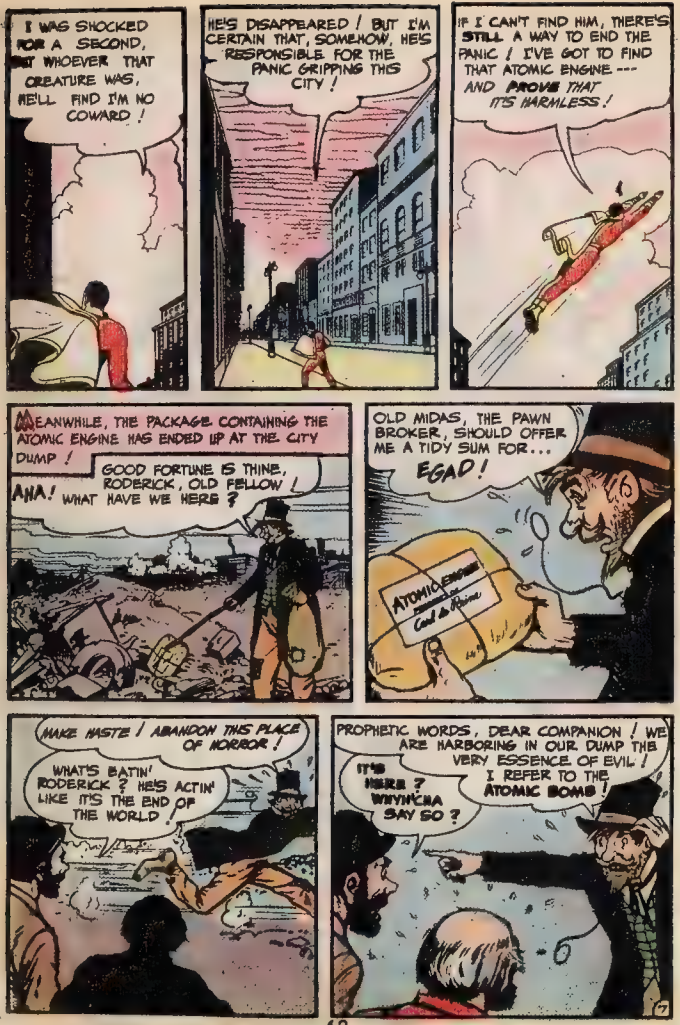

HOLY MOLEY! PEOPLE ARE CRUSHING EACH OTHER TRYING TO GET INTO THAT BUS!


I'LL JUST HAVE TO PUT THIS BUS A LITTLE OUT OF THEIR REACH TO SAVE THEM FROM BEING KILLED!
LOOK! IT'S CAPTAIN MARVEL!


SAVE US, CAPTAIN MARVEL! HELP US TO ESCAPE FROM THIS TERRIBLE PLACE BEFORE THE BOMB GOES OFF!
LISTEN TO ME! THERE ISN'T ANY BOMB!
4

IT'S AN ATOMIC ENGINE THAT IS MISSING ! IT MERELY EMPLOYS THE PRINCIPLE OF ATOMIC ENERGY WITHOUT ANY OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS ! YOU'RE PERFECTLY SAFE !
HMMM ! CAPTAIN MARVEL IS CALMING THEIR FEARS ! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING . . .
EEEOWWW ! THE BOMB !
BANG
IT'S EXPLODED !
RUN ! RUN !
BUT . . .
IT WORKED ! THEY'RE REALLY IN MY POWER NOW !
WHO'S THAT FELLOW SKULKING AROUND IN THAT QUEER OUTFIT ? MAYBE HE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS EXCITEMENT !
SO ! HE'S AFTER ME, EH ?

YOU MUST BE GUILTY OF SOMETHING--- OR YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO RUN AWAY !
TAKE THAT ! I AM STRONGER THAN ANY MAN !
ULP !
WHAM
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL RECOILS FROM THE STRANGE FIGURE'S POWERFUL BLOW !
THAT WAS A POWERFUL BLOW- BUT NOW TRY ONE OF MINE !
WHY ARE YOU HIDING YOUR FACE ? I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK AND ULP !
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS CAREER, CAPTAIN MARVEL KNOWS THE FULL TERRIBLE MEANING OF... FEAR !
FOOLISH MORTAL !
HOLY MOLEY !
DID YOU HOPE TO WITHSTAND THE FULL POWER OF FEAR ?
THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN MARVEL IS QUICKLY ABLE TO SHAKE OFF THE NERVE SHATTERING SHOCK OF VIEWING FEAR FACE TO FACE !
WHAT AM I DOING ? HE'S GETTING AWAY !


I WAS SHOCKED FOR A SECOND, BUT WHOEVER THAT CREATURE WAS, HE'LL FIND I'M NO COWARD !
HE'S DISAPPEARED ! BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT, SOMEHOW, HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PANIC GRIPPING THIS CITY !
IF I CAN'T FIND HIM, THERE'S STILL A WAY TO END THE PANIC ! I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT ATOMIC ENGINE --- AND PROVE THAT IT'S HARMLESS !
MEANWHILE, THE PACKAGE CONTAINING THE ATOMIC ENGINE HAS ENDED UP AT THE CITY DUMP !
AHA! WHAT HAVE WE HERE ?
GOOD FORTUNE IS THINE, RODERICK, OLD FELLOW !
OLD MIDAS, THE PAWN BROKER, SHOULD OFFER ME A TIDY SUM FOR...
EGAD !
ATOMIC ENGINE
MAKE HASTE ! ABANDON THIS PLACE OF HORROR !
WHAT'S BATIN' RODERICK ? HE'S ACTIN' LIKE IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD !
PROPHETIC WORDS, DEAR COMPANION ! WE ARE HARBORING IN OUR DUMP THE VERY ESSENCE OF EVIL ! I REFER TO THE ATOMIC BOMB !
IT'S HERE ? WHYN'CHA SAY SO ?

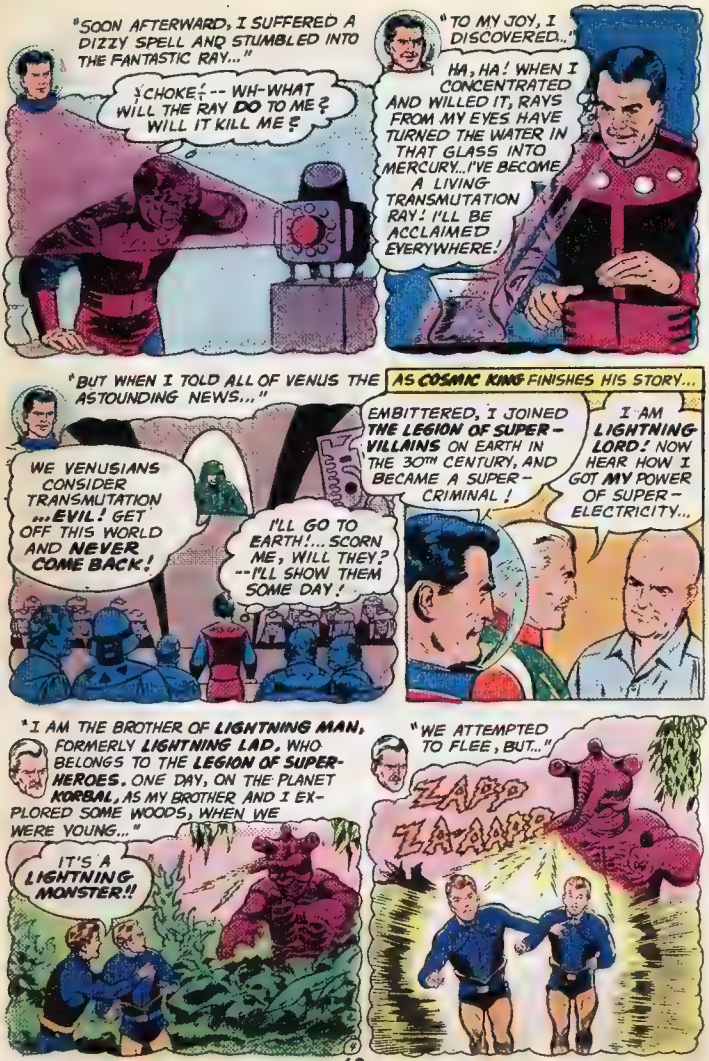
SEE THEM GO! EVEN THE LOWLIEST OF MEN, THOUGH DEVOID OF HOPE, CAN'T ESCAPE FROM ME!
WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT, FELLOWS? I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D JOIN THE EXODUS FROM THE CITY...
CAPTAIN MARVEL! HE IS THE MAN CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM!
... AND I DISCOVERED IT, SO TO SPEAK, IN OUR OWN BACK YARD!
COME WITH ME! I'LL SHOW YOU THAT THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!
THIS IS REALLY A TRIUMPH OF MODERN SCIENCE! A SMALL ENGINE POWERED BY ATOMIC ENERGY!
GULP! I STILL THINK WE OUGHTA BE ELSEWHERE!
CAPTAIN MARVEL'S PERSUADING THEM! I MUST ASSERT MY POWER OVER HIM AGAIN! HE IS TOO DANGEROUS AN OPPONENT!
HMMM! YOU'RE RIGHT! IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A BOMB!
HOLY MOLEY!
I THOUGHT I SENSED YOUR PRESENCE AROUND HERE!
BUT-BUT YOU'RE NOT REACTING THE WAY YOU SHOULD!

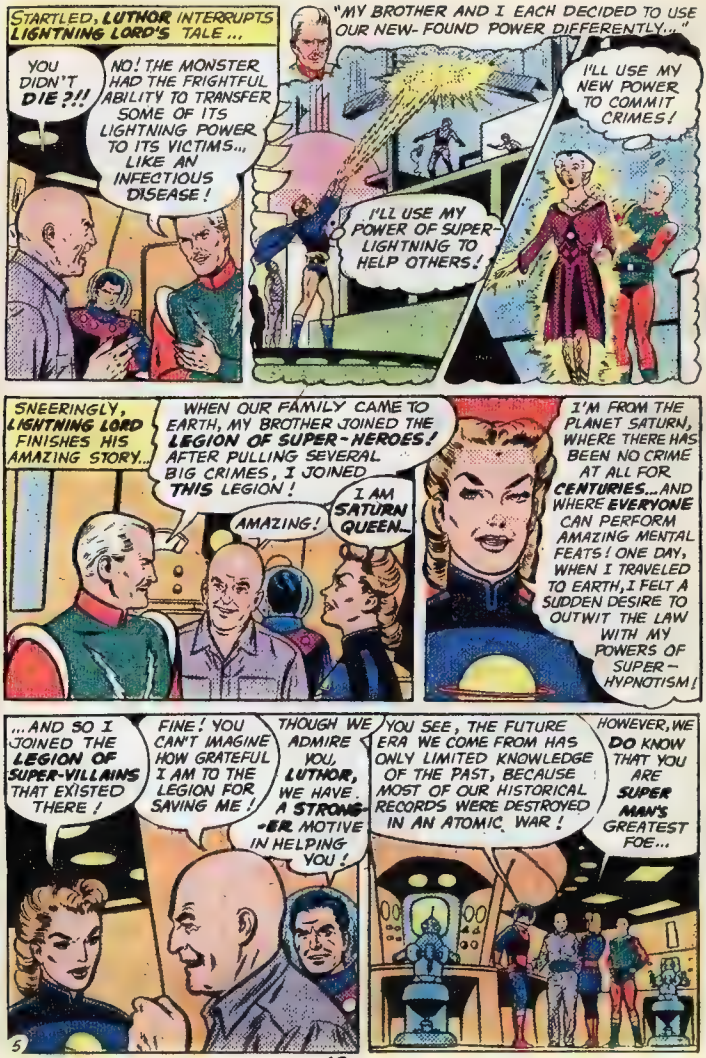
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AFRAID OF... YIPE!
BAM!
WHAT? ME AFRAID? THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF... THAT ATOMIC ENGINE IS HARMLESS!
OUT WITH IT NOW! WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING AROUND HERE?
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME I HAVE EXISTED ONLY IN THE MINDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT KNOWN THE TRUTH! FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THE TRUTH...
... I DON'T EXIST AT ALL!
HE'S GONE! DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!
!
?
LATER...
...AND I NOW PRESENT THE FAMOUS SCIENTIST, DR. CARL DE REINS, WHO WILL GIVE YOU THE FACTS ABOUT THE RECENT ATOMIC BOMB SCARE!
WHIN
... SO YOU SEE, MY INVENTION WAS PERFECTLY HARMLESS ALL THE TIME! THE PANIC CAME FROM FEAR, AND FEAR THRIVES ON IGNORANCE! WHEN MEN LEARN THE FACTS, UNREASONING FEAR AND ALL ITS TERRORS DISAPPEAR FOREVER!
THE END

SUPERMAN.
YEARS AGO, WHEN SUPERMAN WAS THE TEEN-AGED SUPERBOY OF SMALLVILLE, HE JOURNEYED INTO THE DISTANT FUTURE AND BECAME A MEMBER OF A SUPER-HERO CLUB WHOSE MEMBERS EACH HAVE ONE SUPER POWER. SUPERMAN HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN THAT THRILLING, ASTOUNDING EXPERIENCE! IN FACT, HE OFTEN FONDLY RECALLS IT. HOWEVER, ONE DAY THE MAN OF STEEL MEETS ANOTHER CLUB FROM THE FUTURE WHOSE MEMBERS EACH POSSESS A SUPER-POWER. THIS ENCOUNTER PROVES ANYTHING BUT PLEASANT, FOR THESE SUPER-BEINGS ARE THE EVIL, RUTHLESS MEMBERS OF...
The LEGION of SUPER-VILLAINS!
:GASP!: -INCREDIBLE! WHILE I'M HELPLESSLY IMPRISONED INSIDE THIS KRYPTONITE FORCE-SHIELD, THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES IS DESPERATELY BATTLING THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS... WITH MY LIFE AT STAKE!
STORY BY JERRY SIEGEL
ART BY CURT SWAN & SHELDON MOLDOFF
ONE DAY, IN METROPOLIS PRISON, AS THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS OUTLAW, LUTHOR, SPEAKS TO THE WARDEN...
WARDEN, I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING HELPFUL, LIKE REPAIRING THE OTHER CONVICTS' BROKEN RADIOS!
SPLENDID!
AFTERWARD, AS LUTHOR USES HIS SCIENTIFIC GENIUS TO TAMPER WITH THE RADIO PARTS...
HA, HA! I STEAL ONE PART HERE... ANOTHER PART THERE... AND BEFORE LONG I'LL SPRING ONE OF THE MOST SENSATIONAL PRISON BREAKS OF ALL TIME, IF MY THEORY WORKS!!

THEN, ONE EVENING, THE CRIMINAL SCIENTIST COMPLETES A FANTASTIC DEVICE IN HIS CELL, BUILT FROM THE VARIOUS PARTS...
;CHUCKLE;--INCREDIBLY, MY INVENTION CAN BROADCAST MY VOICE THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER, INTO THE FAR-DISTANT FUTURE!
YEARS AGO, SUPERBOY... NOW GROWN INTO SUPERMAN... WAS SAVED FROM BEING DESTROYED BY ME, BY A MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES FROM A FUTURE ERA.*
* YOU SAW IT HERE IN ADVENTURE #492.--GAFF
I'VE LONG BELIEVED THAT IF A LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES EXISTS IN THE FUTURE, THEN A LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS PROBABLY EXISTS IN THE FUTURE TOO! IF THE HEROES COULD SAVE SUPERBOY, THE VILLAINS COULD SAVE ME!
FOR MANY HOURS, LUTHOR WHISPERS OVER AND OVER INTO THE FANTASTIC DEVICE'S MICROPHONE...
CALLING THE FUTURE! ARCH-CRIMINAL LUTHOR FROM THE YEAR 1961 CALLING THE LEGION OF SUPER VILLAINS IN THE FUTURE! AM IMPRISONED! NEED HELP! SAVE ME!
SUDDENLY, AT DAWN...
;GASP!; THREE OBJECTS ARE MATERIALIZING ON THE FLOOR! THEY WEREN'T THERE A MOMENT AGO!... HAS MY APPEAL BEEN ANSWERED??
WE HEARD YOUR SUMMONS! USE THESE OBJECTS TO ESCAPE, LUTHOR! WE'LL JOIN YOU SOON IN YOUR OWN TIME!
QUICKLY, DONNING THE STRANGE BELT AND HELMET, LUTHOR FIRES THE WEIRD GUN AT THE CELL WALL...
EUREKA! THE WALL'S BURSTING OUTWARD!
SSS-
SSSSSY
BWANNNGG

OUT INTO THE PRISON COURTYARD FLASHES THE CRIMINAL MASTERMIND...
AND AS THE GUARDS FIRE AT THE SOARING FIGURE...
HA, HA! THE FOOLS! THEIR BULLETS ARE BOUNCING OFF A FORCE-SHIELD WHICH SURROUNDS ME! - THE HELMET MUST BE CREATING THE PROTECTIVE SHIELD!
LUTHOR'S FLYING OFF! THAT MUST BE SOME KIND OF ANTI-GRAVITY BELT HE'S WEARING! SHOOT HIM DOWN!!
HUH?! GULP! IT'S ... A BREAK!!
ABRUPTLY, AS A FLYING SAUCER MATERIALIZES AND HURTLES DOWN FROM THE SKY...
ENTER, LUTHOR! WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE 30TH CENTURY WHO ARE AIDING YOU!
COMING, PALS!
AS LUTHOR FLIES INTO THE SAUCER, THE ENTRANCE CLOSES BEHIND HIM, AND...
GASP?! - MY WILD GAMBLE SUCCEEDED! YOU'RE... THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS! YOU'VE TRAVELED INTO THE PAST, FROM THE FUTURE, TO SAVE ME!
CORRECT!
I AM COSMIC KING! EACH MEMBER OF OUR INFAMOUS CLUB HAS ONE SUPER-POWER! SHALL I TELL YOU HOW I GAINED THE POWER OF TRANSMUTATION, THE ABILITY TO CHANGE ANY SOLID OBJECT INTO SOMETHING ELSE?
YES!
"I WAS AN ALCHEMIST ON THE PLANET VENUS, SEEKING TO DISCOVER A RAY WHICH COULD CHANGE ANY OBJECT'S ATOMIC STRUCTURE, WHEN ONE DAY..."
IT WORKS! I'VE TRANSFORMED A FLOWER INTO A JEWEL BY ALTERING ITS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE!

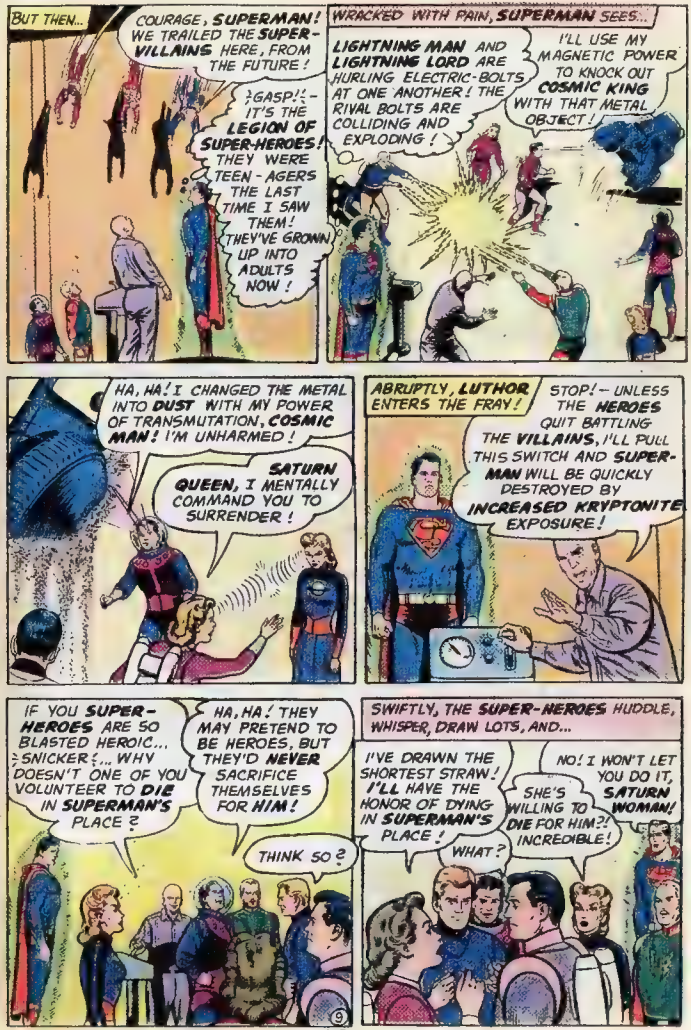

"SOON AFTERWARD, I SUFFERED A DIZZY SPELL AND STUMBLED INTO THE FANTASTIC RAY..."
¡CHOKE! -- WH-WHAT WILL THE RAY DO TO ME? WILL IT KILL ME?
"TO MY JOY, I DISCOVERED..."
HA, HA! WHEN I CONCENTRATED AND WILLED IT, RAYS FROM MY EYES HAVE TURNED THE WATER IN THAT GLASS INTO MERCURY..I'VE BECOME A LIVING TRANSMUTATION RAY! I'LL BE ACCLAIMED EVERYWHERE!
"BUT WHEN I TOLD ALL OF VENUS THE ASTOUNDING NEWS..."
WE VENUSIANS CONSIDER TRANSMUTATION ...EVIL! GET OFF THIS WORLD AND NEVER COME BACK!
I'LL GO TO EARTH!... SCORN ME, WILL THEY? --I'LL SHOW THEM SOME DAY!
AS COSMIC KING FINISHES HIS STORY...
EMBITTERED, I JOINED THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS ON EARTH IN THE 30TH CENTURY, AND BECAME A SUPER-CRIMINAL!
I AM LIGHTNING LORD! NOW HEAR HOW I GOT MY POWER OF SUPER-ELECTRICITY...
"I AM THE BROTHER OF LIGHTNING MAN, FORMERLY LIGHTNING LAD, WHO BELONGS TO THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. ONE DAY, ON THE PLANET KORBAL, AS MY BROTHER AND I EXPLORED SOME WOODS, WHEN WE WERE YOUNG..."
IT'S A LIGHTNING MONSTER!!
"WE ATTEMPTED TO FLEE, BUT..."
ZAPP
ZAAAPP


STARTLED, LUTHOR INTERRUPTS LIGHTNING LORD'S TALE...
YOU DIDN'T DIE?!!
NO! THE MONSTER HAD THE FRIGHTFUL ABILITY TO TRANSFER SOME OF ITS LIGHTNING POWER TO ITS VICTIMS... LIKE AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE!
"MY BROTHER AND I EACH DECIDED TO USE OUR NEW-FOUND POWER DIFFERENTLY..."
I'LL USE MY POWER OF SUPER-LIGHTNING TO HELP OTHERS!
I'LL USE MY NEW POWER TO COMMIT CRIMES!
SNEERINGLY, LIGHTNING LORD FINISHES HIS AMAZING STORY...
WHEN OUR FAMILY CAME TO EARTH, MY BROTHER JOINED THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES! AFTER PULLING SEVERAL BIG CRIMES, I JOINED THIS LEGION!
AMAZING!
I AM SATURN QUEEN...
I'M FROM THE PLANET SATURN, WHERE THERE HAS BEEN NO CRIME AT ALL FOR CENTURIES... AND WHERE EVERYONE CAN PERFORM AMAZING MENTAL FEATS! ONE DAY, WHEN I TRAVELED TO EARTH, I FELT A SUDDEN DESIRE TO OUTWIT THE LAW WITH MY POWERS OF SUPER-HYPNOTISM!
...AND SO I JOINED THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS THAT EXISTED THERE!
FINE! YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO THE LEGION FOR SAVING ME!
THOUGH WE ADMIRE YOU, LUTHOR, WE HAVE A STRONGER MOTIVE IN HELPING YOU!
YOU SEE, THE FUTURE ERA WE COME FROM HAS ONLY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST, BECAUSE MOST OF OUR HISTORICAL RECORDS WERE DESTROYED IN AN ATOMIC WAR!
HOWEVER, WE DO KNOW THAT YOU ARE SUPERMAN'S GREATEST FOE...
5

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES IS MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO PULL CRIMES IN OUR OWN ERA...!
AND WE KNOW THAT SUPERMAN JOINED THE SUPER-HERO CLUB WHEN HE WAS YOUNG! THEREFORE, IT WOULD HUMILIATE THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES IF WE COULD DESTROY SUPERMAN!
NEXT DAY, AS SUPERMAN COMPLETES AN IMPRESSIVE PROJECT...
HERE'S THE LAST OF THE BUILDINGS DONATED BY MANY NATIONS FOR MY PET PROJECT... ORPHAN CITY, THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ORPHAN ASYLUM!
HOW WONDERFUL!
ORPHAN CITY
SUDDENLY, A SNEERING, COSTUMED FIGURE FLASHES DOWNWARD ON A MISSION OF DESTRUCTION...
HA, HA! MY LIGHTNING-BOLTS WILL DESTROY YOUR PRECIOUS "CITY"!
GREAT SCOTT! A MADMAN... WITH LIGHTNING POWERS LIKE LIGHTNING LAD!!
DESPERATELY, THE MAN OF STEEL BATTERS ASIDE TOPPLING STRUCTURES BEFORE THEY CAN HARM THE ORPHANS...
HE'S FLYING OFF NOW!... AS SOON AS THESE KIDS ARE SAFE, I'LL GIVE THAT MARAUDING DEVIL THE ATTENTION HE DESERVES!
HIS TASK COMPLETED, SUPERMAN OVERTAKES THE SHOCKING VANDAL IN METROPOLIS, BUT...
RETREAT, SUPERMAN, OR I'LL INCREASE THIS MILD VOLTAGE AND ELECTROCUTE EVERYONE ON THE BUS!
I'VE... NO CHOICE, BUT TO OBEY!
6
NEXT DAY, AT A METROPOLIS FAIR, AS SUPERMAN TOSSES SOUVENIRS TOWARD ONLOOKERS...
PEOPLE WILL KEEP THESE TOY PLASTIC GLIDERS FOR YEARS, IN HAPPY REMEMBRANCE OF TODAY!
THANKS, SUPERMAN!
YOU'RE SWELL!
OBOY!

BUT SUDDENLY, A MACABRE INTERRUPTION, AS...
PLASTIC... TURN INTO GOLD!!
??!
GOLD!
GOLD??
WOW!
IMMEDIATELY, THERE IS A WILD, GREEDY SCRAMBLE FOR THE UNEXPECTED RICHES...
PEOPLE WILL BE INJURED IN THAT MAD, CLAWING CROWD!
STOP! STOP!
TRYING TO INTERFERE, EH? I'LL FIX THAT! SUPERMAN STATUE, TURN INTO...
...KRYPTONITE!
SUPERMAN NEEDS HELP! COME ON!
OW-WWWW! KRYPTONITE RADIATIONS ... P-PAINING... W-WEAKENING ME! QUICK! SOMEONE... PLEASE PULL ME... TO SAFETY...
AFTER THE AMAZING FIGURE STREAKS OFF, AND SUPERMAN IS CARRIED A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE KRYPTONITE...
MY STRENGTH'S RETURNING!--BUT MY TELE-SCOPIC VISION CAN'T LOCATE THE WEIRD CHARACTER WHO DID THIS!-- I'LL ARRANGE FOR THE STATUE TO BE COATED WITH LEAD AND SUNK AT SEA!
NEXT DAY, AS THE MAN OF STEEL PATROLS...
GREAT GUNS! A MONSTROUS CREATURE IS STALKING THE STREETS OF METROPOLIS! IT'S SNATCHED UP LOIS LANE, WHO WAS TRYING TO PHOTOGRAPH IT!
YI-III! HELP, SUPERMAN ...HELP!!!
AS THE THING STREAKS UP INTO OUTER SPACE WITH ITS CAPTIVE...
FANTASTIC! THE "CREATURE" IS ACTUALLY A MACHINE, AND ONE OF ITS TENTACLES HAS PLACED LOIS INTO THAT "BUBBLE" ATOP IT! THERE MUST BE OXYGEN INSIDE THE BUBBLE!

PRESENTLY, IN ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM...
NOW IT'S PLUMMETING DOWN INTO THAT GREAT, DEEP PIT ON THIS SMALL PLANET! I'LL FOLLOW!
BUT, AT THE PIT'S BOTTOM, AS SUPERMAN ATTEMPTS TO SEIZE THE CREATURE...
IT'S... DISAPPEARING WITH LOIS! AND SHE'S LAUGHING AT ME! BOTH OF THEM MUST BE... ILLUSIONS!
ABRUPTLY, SUPERMAN FINDS HIMSELF PRISONER WITHIN A DEADLY FORCE-SCREEN...
OWW! ...CAN'T--GET OUT OF THIS ...KRYPTONITE FORCE-SCREEN! IT'S... TERRIBLY WEAKENING, AND... OUCH! ...PAINFUL...!
FOOL! I, SATURN QUEEN, TRICKED YOU WITH AN ILLUSION I CREATED WITH MY POWER OF SUPER-HYPNOTISM!
THEN, AS A LEAD PANEL GLIDES UPWARD, REVEALING A SECRET CHAMBER...
GASP!--IT'S THOSE THREE EVIL SUPER-BEINGS WHO PLAGUED ME!
WE ARE THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS, FROM THE FUTURE... FOES OF THE SUPER-HERO CLUB!
COSMIC KING
LIGHTNING LORD
SATURN QUEEN
AFTER THE SUPER-BEINGS GLOATINGLY TELL ALL ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE ORIGIN OF THEIR SUPER-POWERS...
SUPERMAN, AS PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR MANY BRAVE AND WORTHY DEEDS, WE VOTE THAT YOU BE EXECUTED!
I'M... DOOMED!
COSMIC KING
LIGHTNING LORD
SATURN QUEEN
LIFE
DEATH
LIFE
DEATH
LIFE
DEATH
SUDDENLY, INTO VIEW STEPS...
LUTHOR! SO YOU'RE BEHIND THIS, TOO!!
FOR YEARS YOU'VE THWARTED MY SCHEMES WITH YOUR SUPER-POWERS! BUT NOW I'VE GOT ALLIES WHO ALSO HAVE SUPER-POWERS! HA, HA!


BUT THEN...
COURAGE, SUPERMAN! WE TRAILED THE SUPER-VILLAINS HERE, FROM THE FUTURE!
GASP!! - IT'S THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES! THEY WERE TEEN-AGERS THE LAST TIME I SAW THEM! THEY'VE GROWN UP INTO ADULTS NOW!
WRACKED WITH PAIN, SUPERMAN SEES...
LIGHTNING MAN AND LIGHTNING LORD ARE HURLING ELECTRIC-BOLTS AT ONE ANOTHER! THE RIVAL BOLTS ARE COLLIDING AND EXPLODING!
I'LL USE MY MAGNETIC POWER TO KNOCK OUT COSMIC KING WITH THAT METAL OBJECT!
HA, HA! I CHANGED THE METAL INTO DUST WITH MY POWER OF TRANSMUTATION, COSMIC MAN! I'M UNHARMED!
SATURN QUEEN, I MENTALLY COMMAND YOU TO SURRENDER!
ABRUPTLY, LUTHOR ENTERS THE FRAY!
STOP! - UNLESS THE HEROES QUIT BATTLING THE VILLAINS, I'LL PULL THIS SWITCH AND SUPER-MAN WILL BE QUICKLY DESTROYED BY INCREASED KRYPTONITE EXPOSURE!
IF YOU SUPER-HEROES ARE SO BLASTED HEROIC... SNICKER... WHY DOESN'T ONE OF YOU VOLUNTEER TO DIE IN SUPERMAN'S PLACE?
HA, HA! THEY MAY PRETEND TO BE HEROES, BUT THEY'D NEVER SACRIFICE THEMSELVES FOR HIM!
THINK SO?
9
SWIFTLY, THE SUPER-HEROES HUDDLE, WHISPER, DRAW LOTS, AND...
I'VE DRAWN THE SHORTEST STRAW! I'LL HAVE THE HONOR OF DYING IN SUPERMAN'S PLACE!
WHAT?
NO! I WON'T LET YOU DO IT, SATURN WOMAN!
SHE'S WILLING TO DIE FOR HIM?! INCREDIBLE!

SORRY, SUPERMAN! BUT IF SHE'S FOOLISH ENOUGH TO WANT TO DIE FOR YOU, SO BE IT! THIS DEATH RAY WILL DESTROY HER!
WAIT, LUTHOR! I ASK ONE FAVOR! RELEASE ME FOR A FEW MINUTES SO I CAN PERFORM ONE LAST SUPER-FEAT IN SATURN WOMAN'S HONOR!
RELEASE YOU? ARE YOU TRYING TO TRICK US?
I PROMISE NOT TO SAVE HER!
I KNOW HE'LL KEEP HIS WORD! I'LL FREE HIM FROM THE KRYPTONITE POWER-SCREEN! SUPERMAN'S PITIFUL SUPER-DEED WILL AMUSE US, BEFORE SATURN WOMAN DIES!
AN INSTANT LATER...
SO LONG, FOR NOW, SUPERMAN! PLEASE DON'T BREAK OUR HEARTS! HA, HA!
DESTINATION, SATURN!
REACHING THE PLANET SATURN, SUPERMAN CONSTRUCTS A GIANT SHOVEL, THEN...
THERE! I'VE SCOOPED UP MANY OF THE METEOR-FRAGMENTS THAT FORM SATURN'S RINGS! NOW TO FLY THE FRAGMENTS BACK TO THAT SMALL PLANETOID!
MINUTES LATER...
I'VE MADE A RING ABOUT THIS PLANETOID WITH THE METEOR FRAGMENTS TAKEN FROM SATURN'S RINGS! UNLESS I'M VERY WRONG, SATURN WOMAN WON'T DIE NOW!
CAN YOU GUESS WHY?
SECONDS LATER, AS SUPERMAN RETURNS INTO THE PIT...
SEE, SATURN WOMAN? UP THERE ... A RING!
THANKS, SUPERMAN! IT REMINDS ME OF MY HOME WORLD, SATURN.
SENTIMENTAL DRIVEL! YOU CHOSE TO DIE, SATURN WOMAN, SO I'LL OBLIGE YOU!
10

BUT BEFORE LUTHOR CAN PRESS THE BUTTON...
WAIT! WITH MY POWER OF SUPER-HYPNOTISM, I COMMAND YOU THREE VILLAINS TO BECOME TEMPORARILY PARALYZED!
GREAT GALAXIES! SATURN QUEEN HAS RESCUED SATURN WOMAN! I...
DON'T UNDERSTAND...?!!
I'LL EXPLAIN!
WHEN SATURN QUEEN TOLD ME HER ORIGIN, IT STRUCK ME THAT THERE MUST BE SOME REASON FOR CRIME NOT EXISTING ON SATURN! EXAMINING SATURN'S RINGS WITH MY SUPER-VISION, I DISCOVERED THAT RADIATIONS FROM IT CANCEL OUT SATURN PEOPLE'S CRIMINAL TRAITS! YOU'LL RECALL SATURN QUEEN DIDN'T BECOME A CRIMINAL UNTIL AFTER SHE LEFT SATURN'S RINGS BEHIND HER AND CAME TO EARTH!
THUS, THE METEOR RINGS FROM SATURN I FORMED ABOUT THIS PLANET HAD THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF CURING SATURN QUEEN OF HER VILLAINOUS TENDENCIES! THAT'S WHY SHE SAVED SATURN WOMAN!
I'M GLAD! FROM NOW ON I'LL USE MY POWERS FOR GOOD --LIKE SATURN WOMAN!
TAKE THIS SMALL METEOR CHUNK FROM SATURN'S RINGS, KEEP IT ON YOU AT ALL TIMES, AND YOU'LL ALWAYS BE GOOD!
HOW CLEVER, SUPERMAN! YOU KEPT YOUR WORD! YOU DIDN'T SAVE SATURN WOMAN... SATURN QUEEN DID!
SHORTLY, AS THE SUPER-HEROES' TIME-MACHINE TAKES THE SUPER-VILLAINS BACK TO THEIR OWN ERA, SUPERMAN FLIES TOWARD EARTH WITH LUTHOR...
I'M SURE LAW-COURTS OF THE FUTURE WILL BE LENIENT WITH SATURN QUEEN!
RETURNED TO PRISON, ON EARTH, LUTHOR BUILDS ANOTHER DEVICE TO CONTACT THE FUTURE, BUT...
LIGHTNING MAN REPLYING! DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON ANY MORE APPEALS TO THE LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS, LUTHOR! ITS MEMBERS ARE JAILED TOO... LIKE YOU!
BAH!
THE END

The SPECTRE!

FIGHTING AN 18th CENTURY PIRATE ON A 20th CENTURY BATTLEGROUND PROVED TROUBLESOME ENOUGH-- BUT FIGHTING A PIRATE POSSESSED OF PSYCHIC POWERS STAGGERED EVEN THE MIGHTY **SPECTRE!**

UNABLE EVEN TO TOUCH THE BALEFUL BUCCANEER-- LEST HE LOSE HIS OWN ASTRAL LIFE--THE **GHOSTLY GUARDIAN** SEARCHED THROUGH TIME AND SPACE FOR THE URGENT AND ULTIMATE WEAPON TO SUBDUE...

STORY • GARDNER FOX
ART • MURPHY ANDERSON

The SINISTER LIVES of CAPTAIN SKULL!

FRAMED IN THE GUNSIGHT OF A RIFLE IS A MAN ON WHOSE LIFE DEPENDS THE PEACE OF AN ENTIRE WORLD...

WITH A CHEERFUL SMILE, WITH AN ENCOURAGING WAVE OF THE HAND, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR JOSEPH CLANTON IS LEAVING TO FLY TO THE WORLD TREATY MEETING IN SWITZERLAND...

PEACE!

PEACE!

PEACE!

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR VENTURE, MR. AMBASSADOR!

FINGER SQUEEZES TRIGGER-- AND...

BLAM

H-HE'S BEEN SHOT!

WITHOUT *HIM* TO REPRESENT US-- WAR IS SURE TO BREAK OUT!

HE'S THE *ONLY MAN* THE OTHER SIDE WILL NEGOTIATE WITH!

A TENSE WORLD LISTENS TO THE DREAD NEWS...

THE WAR THE WORLD HAS FEARED MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRIGGERED OFF THIS AFTERNOON -- BY A MYSTERIOUS ASSAILANT-- WHO IN TURN WAS STRUCK DOWN BY SECURITY GUARDS ...

AT THIS MOMENT AMBASSADOR CLANTON LIES DYING IN *GATE-WAY CITY HOSPITAL*-- FOR THE BULLET IN HIS HEAD IS *INOPERABLE!*

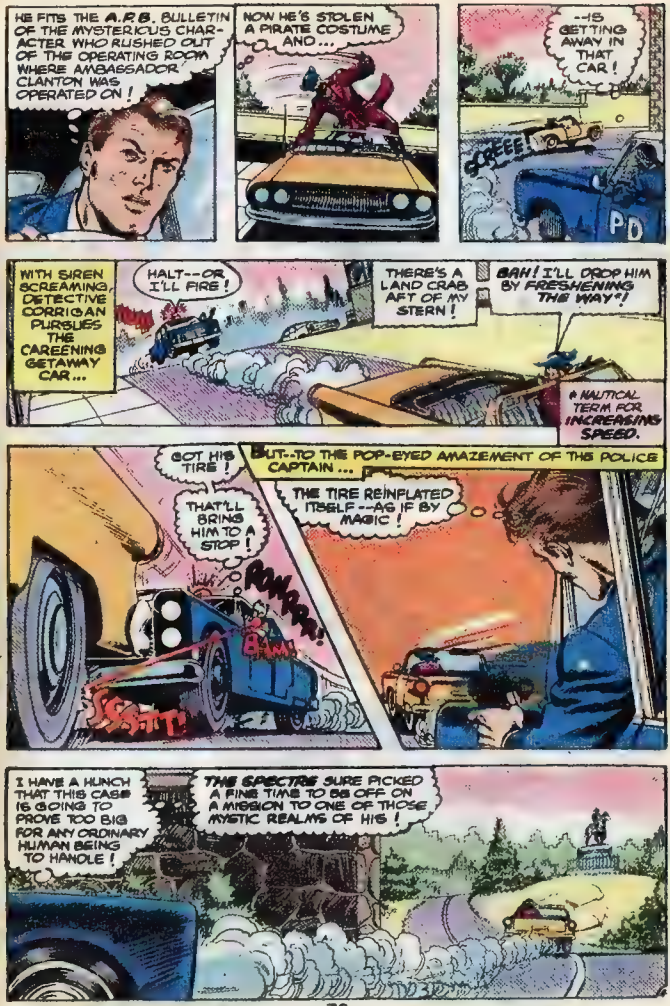
IN GATEWAY CITY HOSPITAL...

AS YOU KNOW, DOCTORS, I'VE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH A NEW ANESTHETIC-- WHICH *MAY* PERMIT US TO OPERATE SAFELY! IT'S NEVER BEEN FULLY TESTED...

WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!

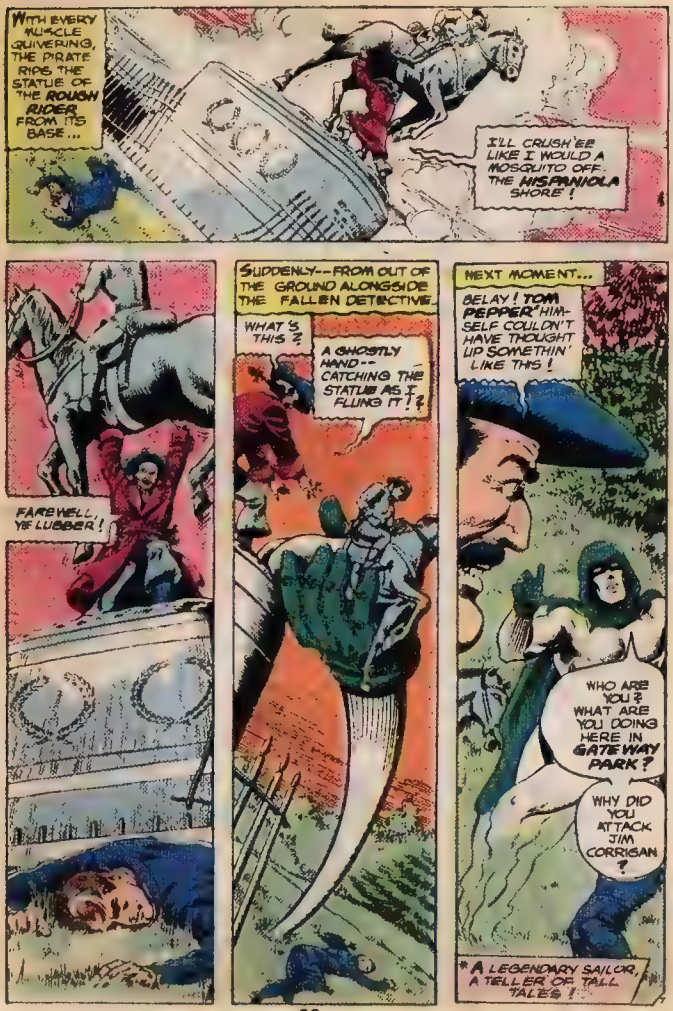
HE *MUST* TAKE THE RISK!

FOR THREE HOURS, JOSEPH CLANTON HOVERS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH AS THE COUNTRY'S MOST BRILLIANT SURGEONS PLY SCALPEL AND SUTURES, UNTIL...
THE OPERATION IS OVER!
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS HOPE--
AND PRAY!
SUDDENLY THE OPERATING ROOM DOORS BURST OPEN...
HOIST ANCHOR, YE LUBBERS! I'M CHARTING MY COURSE RIGHT THROUGH YOU ALL!
HUH?
WHO'S HE?
HOW'D HE GET IN THERE?
WITH FEROCIOUS SWINGS OF HIS HEAVILY MUSCLED ARMS HE CLEARS A PATH BEFORE HIM...
DASH MY TIMBERS! I MUST BE IN FIDDLER'S GREEN--EVERYTHING'S SO CHANGED!
AVAST, YE SWABS--OUT OF MY WAY! I'VE GOT TO HAUL IN MY LINES AND GO ABOUT WITH THE WIND!
AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS GIANT RACES OFF DOWN THE HALL...
THE AMBASSADOR! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?!
A LITTLE LATER, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF GATEWAY CITY, AS CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES JIM CORRIGAN DRIVES PAST A COSTUME SHOP...
STOP THIEF!
COSTUMES
HE ROBBED MY STORE OF THOSE PIRATE CLOTHES!
SEEMS I'VE STUMBLED ONTO A SNEAK THIEF WHO--BUT WAIT!


HE FITS THE A.R.B. BULLETIN OF THE MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER WHO RUSHED OUT OF THE OPERATING ROOM WHERE AMBASSADOR CLANTON WAS OPERATED ON!
NOW HE'S STOLEN A PIRATE COSTUME AND...
--IS GETTING AWAY IN THAT CAR!
SCREEE
PD
WITH SIREN SCREAMING, DETECTIVE CORRIGAN PURSUES THE CAREENING GETAWAY CAR...
HALT--OR I'LL FIRE!
THERE'S A LAND CRAB AFT OF MY STERN!
BAH! I'LL DROP HIM BY FRESHENING THE WAY*!
* NAUTICAL TERM FOR INCREASING SPEED.
GOT HIS TIRE!
THAT'LL BRING HIM TO A STOP!
BUT--TO THE POP-EYED AMAZEMENT OF THE POLICE CAPTAIN...
THE TIRE REINFLATED ITSELF--AS IF BY MAGIC!
BLAM!
I HAVE A HUNCH THAT THIS CASE IS GOING TO PROVE TOO BIG FOR ANY ORDINARY HUMAN BEING TO HANDLE!
THE SPECTRE SURE PICKED A FINE TIME TO BE OFF ON A MISSION TO ONE OF THOSE MYSTIC REALMS OF HIS!

MEET JIM CORRIGAN, WHO "DIED" LONG AGO, YET WHOSE EARTH-BOUND SPIRIT --THE SPECTRE-- STILL ROAMS THE WORLD, SEEKING OUT AND ELIMINATING EVIL IN THE NAME OF GOOD.
RESTORED TO LIFE BY THE AWESOME POWERS GRANTED THE SPECTRE, JIM CORRIGAN CARRIES ON AS A TWO-FISTED FIGHTING DETECTIVE --AIDED UPON OCCASION BY HIS ASTRAL ALTER EGO...
HE'S STOPPING AT THAT STATUE OF GATEWAY CITY'S SPANISH AMERICAN WAR HERO-- ROUGH RIDER BUCKO BENJAMIN!
MAYBE I CAN STILL HANDLE THIS ON MY OWN--BUT THE WAY THAT TIRE INFLATED BY ITSELF CONVINCES ME I'M DEALING WITH MYSTICAL FORCES HERE!
GASP! WHAT INCREDIBLE STRENGTH! HE'S RIPPING THOSE IRON RAILINGS LOOSE AS IF THEY WERE PAPER!
BUT I'VE CAPTURED STRONG-ARM GUYS BEFORE!
ZOK
WHY, YE UNMANNERLY SWAB! RAISE FIST TO CAP'N SKULL, WILL'EE? YOU'RE JARRIN' MY COMPASS--SO RIG IN YOUR BOOMS AND BE OFF WITH'EE!
ZOK
EVEN AS HE DROPS BACKWARD, THE DETECTIVE CAPTAIN GRIPS A BRAWNY ARM AND...
YOU SOUND LIKE SOMEBODY OUT OF THE PAST--SO MAYBE YOU DON'T DIG JUDO HOLDS-- LIKE THIS STOMACH THROW, FOR INSTANCE!

SWALLOW ANCHOR, YE SEA SWABBER! YOU'VE FALLEN FOUL OF ME NOW!
YOU TALK LIKE A FUGITIVE FROM A PIRATE MOVIE, BUT I'LL PUT A STOP TO YOUR GAB!
THAT'S KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF HIM! NOW TO CLAMP ON THE 'CUFFS!
WHUMMPP
TH-THIS IS GOING TOO FAR! HE'S LEVITATING STRAIGHT UP INTO THE AIR--
I'VE GOT THE RANGE, YE LANDSMAN! NOW I'M COMIN' ABOARD!
IF I HAD A DECK UNDER MY BOOTS, I'D KEEL-HAUL YE-- HANG'EE FROM THE HIGHEST YARDARM!
INSTEAD, I'LL SQUARE YARDS WITH YE A DIFFERENT WAY!
ZUNK


WITH EVERY MUSCLE QUIVERING, THE PIRATE RIPS THE STATUE OF THE ROUGH RIDER FROM ITS BASE...
I'LL CRUSH'EE LIKE I WOULD A MOSQUITO OFF THE HISPANIOLA SHORE!
FAREWELL, YE LUBBER!
SUDDENLY--FROM OUT OF THE GROUND ALONGSIDE THE FALLEN DETECTIVE...
WHAT'S THIS?
A GHOSTLY HAND--CATCHING THE STATUE AS IT FLUNG IT!?
NEXT MOMENT...
BELAY! TOM PEPPER* HIMSELF COULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT UP SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN GATEWAY PARK?
WHY DID YOU ATTACK JIM CORRIGAN?
* A LEGENDARY SAILOR, A TELLER OF TALL TALES!

ANSWER ME--
CAP'N SKULL WILL ANSWER 'EE YE SHORE LOAFER--
WITH HIS BOOTS!
THE ASTRAL AVENGER QUIVERS, ENLARGES HIS BODY TO TENUOUS FORM.
HERE'S WHERE I CUT OFF YOUR JIB AND-- HALLOO!
I AM YOUR NEMESIS-- WHOEVER YOU ARE!
WHAT ARE YOU-- A DREDAX-- THE GHOST OF A DROWNED SAILOR?!
WHIISSH
TO THE UTTER STUPEFACTION OF THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN-- EVEN AS THE PIRATE HURTLES THROUGH HIM...
BY THE HORNS OF CAPRICORN! I SENSE A STRANGE FORCE RADIATING OUT OF THIS CAP'N SKULL!
A FORCE OF SUCH EERIE QUALITY-- THAT IT WEAKENS MY OWN SPECTRAL POWER!
I DARE NOT LET MYSELF BE TOUCHED BY THIS PUZZLING PIRATE LEST HIS FORCE--DESTROY ME!
I'VE NEVER COME UP AGAINST ANY SUCH ENERGY-DISPLAY AS THIS! I MUST STUDY IT--FIND A WAY TO COUNTER-ACT IT!
MAYBE--WITH SPECTRAL LUCK-- I CAN BASH HIM INTO UNCONSCIOUS-NESS--WITH THIS TREE!
BRACE YOUR-SELF TO GO DOWN TO DAVY JONES' LOCKER, ME FINE BUCKO-- BY THIS LANDING PARTY O' ONE!
6

HIS CUTLASS TWIRLING LIKE THE BLADES OF A PROPELLER, THE BRUISING BUCCANEER HACKS THE TREE TO FIREWOOD...
HE RIPPED THAT HOPE TO SHREDS!
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
HOW'D HE EVER ACQUIRE THOSE AWESOME ENERGIES?
HIS BLADE'S FILLED WITH THE SAME ENERGY AS HIS BODY! IF IT SO MUCH AS SCRATCHES ME--I'M A GONE GHOST!
BUT TWO CAN PLAY THIS GAME OF DEADLY DUEL!
A SPECTRAL SWORD MATERIALIZES IN THE GLOVED HAND OF THE ASTRAL AVENGER--TURNS A SLASH WITH CUNNING PARRY...
IT WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD TO IN-CREASE MY SIZE--FOR A MERE PINPRICK WOULD RELEASE THAT DESTRUCTIVE FORCE THROUGH-OUT MY ECTO-PLASMIC BEING!
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE--
JUST AS I CAN'T LET HIM TOUCH ME--
SO AM I UNABLE TO TOUCH HIM--
--WITHOUT DESTROYING MYSELF!
ABRUPTLY AND AMAZINGLY...
AVAST, YE SWAB! I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME WITH EE!
I'LL FASHION ANOTHER CUTLASS TO DO MY WORK FOR ME!
HE CREATED AN ENERGY-DOUBLE OF HIS SWORD!
WIELDING IT BY REMOTE CONTROL!

LEAVING THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN TO FIGHT FOR HIS ASTRAL LIFE--CAP'N SKULL PUSHES ASIDE THE BASE OF THE STATUE...
WHAT'S HE UP TO?
CLANK
WITH HIS BARE HANDS ACTING LIKE SHOVELS, THE BALEFUL BUCCANEER DIGS INTO THE GROUND...
NOW TO SEE IF MY SEA CHEST IS STILL WHERE I LEFT IT!
ALL'S SHIP-SHAPE! NOBODY'S LAID FINGER TO MY MONEY CASKET!
HE DUG UP AN OLD-- TIME TREASURE CHEST!
CAN IT BE THAT-- THIS PIRATE LIVED BEFORE--
THAT HE IS THE REINCARNATION OF A FORMER BUCCANEER--
THAT HE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED OUT OF HIS TIME ELEMENT?
CAN'T STOP HIM FROM GETTING AWAY!
IF I DIVERT MY ATTENTION FROM THIS ENERGY-FILLED CUTLASS--IT WILL DEMOLISH ME!
GOT TO COME UP WITH SOME TRICK TO EVADE IT--OVERCOME IT!
HURLING HIS SWORD AT THE SELF-FIGHTING CUTLASS, THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN DIVES AT THE FALLEN STATUE OF THE ROUSH RIDER...
THE PIRATE'S SWORD IS CONDITIONED TO FIGHT ME-- BUT IF IT DOESN'T SEE ME--
--IT'LL BE UNABLE TO DO SO!

AS THE CUTLASS HANGS HELPLESSLY IN MID-AIR...
MATERIALIZED MYSELF INSIDE THIS STATUE WITHOUT THAT ENEMY-- SWORD BEING AWARE OF IT!
I'LL ACTIVATE THIS STATUE--
THOUGH THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN HUNTS FAR AND WIDE...
NO SIGN OF HIM! IT'S AS IF HE VANISHED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
MIGHT AS WELL GO BACK TO MY OTHER SELF--JIM CORRIGAN AND MATCH NOTES WITH HIM ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS VISITOR TO GATEWAY CITY!
--AND USE ITS SWORD TO SHATTER THE CORSAIR'S CUTLASS!
KRAVA
NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP ME FROM TRACKING DOWN THAT PIRATE!
HOW TO STOP HIM IS ANOTHER PROBLEM!

MOMENTS AFTERWARD, WHEN JIM CORRIGAN AND THE **WONDER WRAITH** HAVE EXCHANGED STORIES...

AMBASSADOR CLANTON? AN UNTESTED ANESTHETIC?

ODD--BUT I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THIS PUZZLING PIRATE MAY WELL BE THE AMBASSADOR HIMSELF!

THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE PIRATE IN THE HOSPITAL?

I'M READY TO BELIEVE **ANYTHING!**

BUT HOW CAN YOU MAKE SURE?

BY VISITING THE **ASTRA-DIMENSIONS**--WHERE ARE TO BE FOUND THE ANSWERS TO MANY PERPLEXING PROBLEMS!

AND SO IN THAT MYSTIC REALM TO WHICH HE ALONE CAN TRAVEL...

AS YOU KNOW, EARTH-SPIRIT, A PERSON'S PSYCHIC SELF MAY REAPPEAR IN THE BODY OF A DESCENDANT--AS A **REINCARNATION!**

WHEN THAT ANESTHESIA WAS APPLIED TO JOSEPH CLANTON, IT RELEASED THE PSYCHIC SPIRIT OF AN ANCESTOR--**CAP'N SKULL!**

WRENCHED OUT OF TIME, THE PIRATE'S PSYCHIC SOUL BECAME INUNDATED BY **MEGACYCLIC FORCES** AS IT TRAVELED TO REACH THE AMBASSADOR'S BODY!

DISPLACED IN TIME--ROUSED TO LIFE WHERE HE LAY LATENT WITHIN JOSEPH CLANTON--THE REINCARNATED SPIRIT OF **CAP'N SKULL** HAD BECOME SO POWERFUL, IT WAS ABLE TO TRANSFORM THE AMBASSADOR'S FEATURES TO THOSE OF **CAP'N SKULL!**

UNFORTUNATELY, NOT EVEN YOUR SPECTRAL POWER CAN STOP THE **MEGACYCLIC POWER** POSSESSED BY **CAP'N SKULL!**

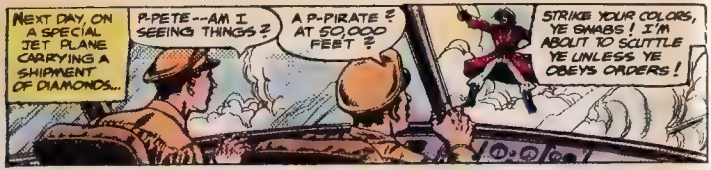
YET UNLESS HE IS DEFEATED HE WILL BECOME A MODERN DAY PIRATE--AND LOOT AND STEAL WITHOUT HOPE OF ANYONE STOPPING HIM!

AND UNLESS YOU EXORCISE **CAP'N SKULL** FROM AMBASSADOR CLANTON'S BODY--WAR WILL ERUPT ON EARTH!

ON THIS SAME NIGHT IN THE DUSTY ARCHIVES OF THE **GATEWAY CITY LIBRARY...**

I'VE FOUND SEVERAL REFERENCES TO A REAL **CAPTAIN SKULL** WHO LIVED BETWEEN 1710 AND 1764--WHO ROBBED AND LOOTED IN THE SHIP "**BONNY VENTURE**" IN THE **CARIBBEAN SEA** AND OFF THE **CAROLINA** COAST!

LISTEN TO WHAT I FOUND OUT IN THE **ASTRA-DIMENSIONS**...


NEXT DAY, ON A SPECIAL JET PLANE CARRYING A SHIPMENT OF DIAMONDS...
P-PETE--AM I SEEING THINGS?
A P-PIRATE? AT 50,000 FEET?
STRIKE YOUR COLORS, YE SWABS! I'M ABOUT TO SCUTTLE YE UNLESS YE OBEYS ORDERS!

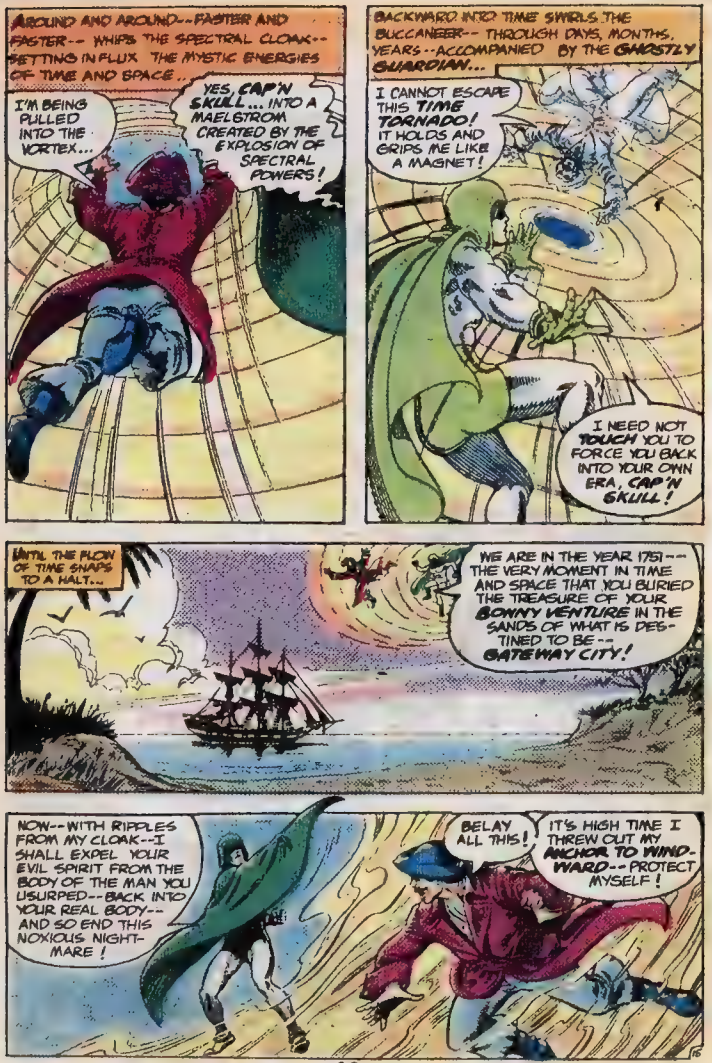
HE'S RUNNING TOWARD US--ON EMPTY AIR!
STOW THE GAB, YE LUBBERS!
BASH MY BINNACLES--- IF'EE DON'T DO AS I SAY, I'LL CARVE MY NAME ON YOUR SHIP'S HULL!

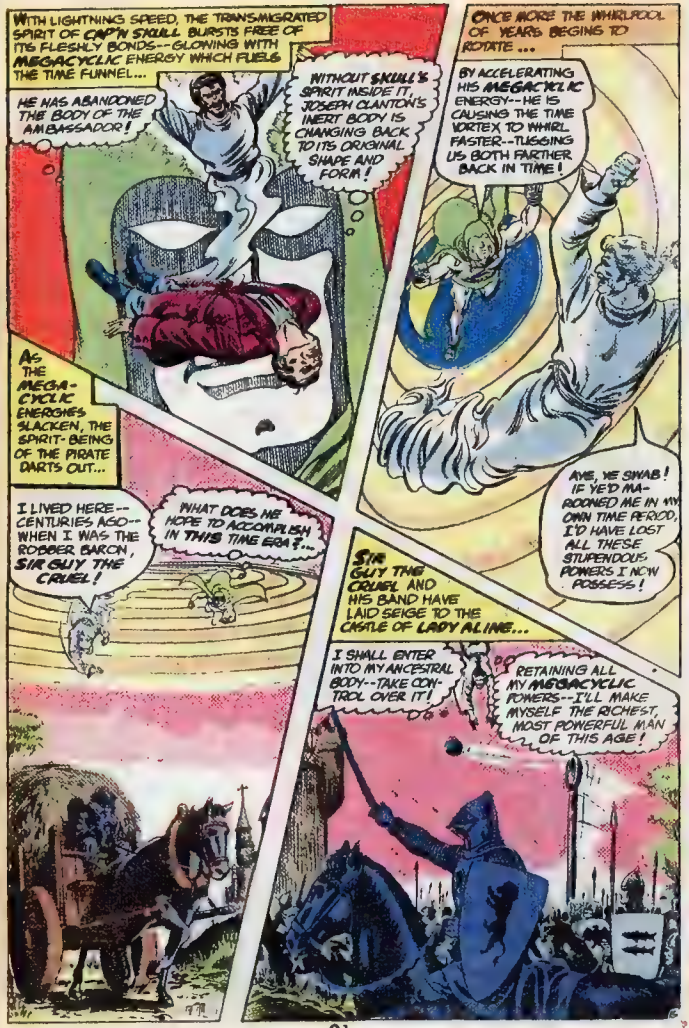
BEFORE MEGACYCLIC CUTLASS CAN TOUCH AIRPLANE METAL...
MAYBE I CAN ROCK THAT PIRATE TO SLEEP!
SHIVER MY TIMBERS--IT'S THAT OREDGY I FOUGHT BEFORE!
SHEER OFF--AFORE I JAM YOUR COMPASS!

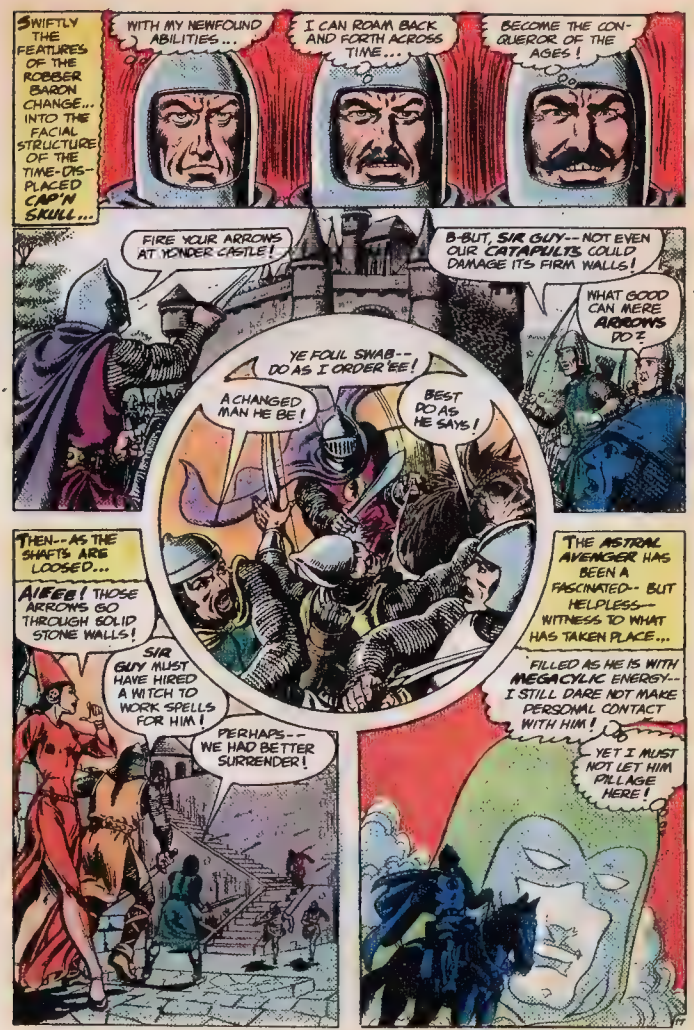
WHAAAAPP!

BUT WHEN THE ROCKY WEAPONS ARE SEPARATED...
SNOGGLE MY EYES! YOU'VE GOT ME CLIMBING THE RIGGING, MATE!
SO IT'S FIRING A BROADSIDE I AM!
*NAUTICAL TERM FOR LOSING ONE'S TEMPER!

OUT OF THE PIRATE'S SWORD ERUPTS A VOLLEY OF CANNON-BALLS...
I'LL BRING YOUR TOPS'LS CLATTERING DOWN ABOUT YOUR EARS!
I CAN SENSE THAT THOSE CANNONBALLS ARE FILLED WITH DEADLY MEGACYCLIC ENERGY!
THEY--MUST--NOT--TOUCH ME!
SWEEPING HIS CAPE AS WOULD A MATADOR TO WARD OFF A BULL-CHARGE...
I'LL CREATE A VAST WIND CURRENT WITH MY CLOAK-BLOW THE CANNONBALLS OFF TO ONE SIDE...
AND NOW I'LL USE MY CLOAK TO WHIP UP A TREMENDOUS VORTEX OF ASTRAL POWER!
BELAY THERE! WHAT SINISTER TRICK DO YOU HAVE IN MIND NOW, YE SWAB?

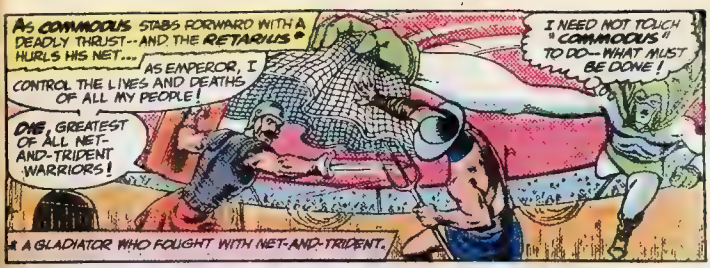

AROUND AND AROUND--FASTER AND FASTER-- WHIPS THE SPECTRAL CLOAK-- SETTING IN FLUX THE MYSTIC ENERGIES OF TIME AND SPACE...
I'M BEING PULLED INTO THE VORTEX...
YES, CAP'N SKULL... INTO A MAELSTROM CREATED BY THE EXPLOSION OF SPECTRAL POWERS!
BACKWARD INTO TIME SWIRLS THE BUCCANEER-- THROUGH DAYS, MONTHS, YEARS--ACCOMPANIED BY THE GHASTLY GUARDIAN...
I CANNOT ESCAPE THIS TIME TORNADO! IT HOLDS AND GRIPS ME LIKE A MAGNET!
I NEED NOT TOUCH YOU TO FORCE YOU BACK INTO YOUR OWN ERA, CAP'N SKULL!
UNTIL THE FLOW OF TIME SNAPS TO A HALT...
WE ARE IN THE YEAR 1751--- THE VERY MOMENT IN TIME AND SPACE THAT YOU BURIED THE TREASURE OF YOUR BONNY VENTURE IN THE SANDS OF WHAT IS DESTINED TO BE--- GATEWAY CITY!
NOW--WITH RIPPLES FROM MY CLOAK--I SHALL EXPEL YOUR EVIL SPIRIT FROM THE BODY OF THE MAN YOU USURPED--BACK INTO YOUR REAL BODY-- AND SO END THIS NOXIOUS NIGHTMARE!
BELAY ALL THIS!
IT'S HIGH TIME I THREW OUT MY ANCHOR TO WINDWARD--PROTECT MYSELF!

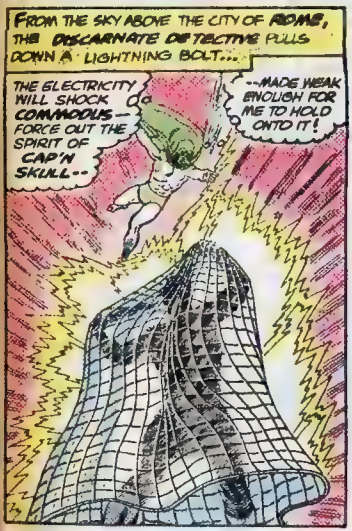

WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, THE TRANS-MIGRATED SPIRIT OF CAP'N SKULL BURSTS FREE OF ITS FLESHLY BONDS--GLOWING WITH MEGACYCLIC ENERGY WHICH FUELS THE TIME FUNNEL...
HE HAS ABANDONED THE BODY OF THE AMBASSADOR!
WITHOUT SKULL'S SPIRIT INSIDE IT, JOSEPH CLANTON'S INERT BODY IS CHANGING BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL SHAPE AND FORM!
AS THE MEGA-CYCLIC ENERGIES SLACKEN, THE SPIRIT-BEING OF THE PIRATE DARTS OUT...
I LIVED HERE--CENTURIES AGO--WHEN I WAS THE ROBBER BARON, SIR GUY THE CRUEL!
WHAT DOES HE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH IN THIS TIME ERA?...
ONCE MORE THE WHIRLPOOL OF YEARS BEGINS TO ROTATE...
BY ACCELERATING HIS MEGACYCLIC ENERGY--HE IS CAUSING THE TIME VORTEX TO WHIRL FASTER--TUGGING US BOTH FARTHER BACK IN TIME!
AYE, YE SWAB! IF YE'D MARROONED ME IN MY OWN TIME PERIOD, I'D HAVE LOST ALL THESE STUPENDOUS POWERS I NOW POSSESS!
SIR GUY THE CRUEL AND HIS BAND HAVE LAID SEIGE TO THE CASTLE OF LADY ALINE...
I SHALL ENTER INTO MY ANCESTRAL BODY--TAKE CONTROL OVER IT!
RETAINING ALL MY MEGACYCLIC POWERS--I'LL MAKE MYSELF THE RICHEST, MOST POWERFUL MAN OF THIS AGE!


SWIFTLY THE FEATURES OF THE ROBBER BARON CHANGE... INTO THE FACIAL STRUCTURE OF THE TIME-DISPLACED CAP'N SKULL...
WITH MY NEWFOUND ABILITIES...
I CAN ROAM BACK AND FORTH ACROSS TIME...
BECOME THE CONQUEROR OF THE AGES!
FIRE YOUR ARROWS AT YONDER CASTLE!
B-BUT, SIR GUY--NOT EVEN OUR CATAPULTS COULD DAMAGE ITS FIRM WALLS!
WHAT GOOD CAN MERE ARROWS DO?
YE FOUL SWAB--DO AS I ORDER 'EE!
A CHANGED MAN HE BE!
BEST DO AS HE SAYS!
THEN--AS THE SHAFTS ARE LOOSED...
AIEEE! THOSE ARROWS GO THROUGH SOLID STONE WALLS!
SIR GUY MUST HAVE HIRED A WITCH TO WORK SPELLS FOR HIM!
PERHAPS--WE HAD BETTER SURRENDER!
THE ASTRAL AVENGER HAS BEEN A FASCINATED-- BUT HELPLESS-- WITNESS TO WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE...
FILLED AS HE IS WITH MEGACYLIC ENERGY--I STILL DARE NOT MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIM!
YET I MUST NOT LET HIM PILLAGE HERE!

HOW ODD THAT IN TWO OF HIS PREVIOUS EXISTENCES--AS CAP'N SKULL AND AS THE ROBBER BARON SIR GUY--SUCH A GOOD MAN AS "JOSEPH CLANTON" HAD BEEN EVIL DOERS!
IN HIS OWN TIME, WORLD PEACE DEPENDS ON THE AMBASSADOR! I MUST NOT FAIL THE PEOPLE WHO COUNT ON HIM!
BELOW HIM, THE WAR-SWORD OF "SIR GUY" LIFTS TO DENOTE THE CHARGE...
THIS MAY BE THE ONLY CHANCE I'LL GET TO SURPRISE HIM, SO...
FOOOM-AAAAAD!
A RAY OF BRILLIANT SUNLIGHT IS REFLECTED OFF THE SURFACE OF THE METALLIC BLADE
SHAAAEEE!
NEXT INSTANT THAT SUNBEAM STRIKES DOWNWARD--MOMENTARILY BLINDING THE ARMED MERCENARY BEHIND "SIR GUY"...
CONCEALED IN THIS SUNBEAM AS I AM--NOT EVEN CAP'N SKULL CAN SUSPECT MY PRESENCE!
THUS--AS THE MAILED AND ARMORED MIGHT OF THE ROBBER BARON THUNDERS BEHIND HIM IN THE CHARGE ONE OF HIS "WARRIORS" IS--THE SPECTRE!..
AT THE RIGHT MOMENT I MUST STRIKE--AND STRIKE HARD! I'LL GET ONE OPPORTUNITY AND--NO MORE!

EVEN AS "SIR GUY" SENSES VICTORY--THE DISGUISED SPECTRE LIFTS HIS WAR-MACE AND...
SINCE "SIR GUY" INFUSED THE WEAPONS OF HIS FOLLOWERS WITH MEGACYCLIC ENERGY--AS WITNESS WHAT THOSE ARROWS DID --THIS ENCHANTED BATTLE-MACE SHOULD STUN HIM INTO HELPLESSNESS!
FORTUNATELY, HE MADE THE WEAPONS SAFE FOR HIS FOLLOWERS TO HANDLE!
KRAK!
HAVING TOUCHED THAT MEGACYCLIC ENERGY IN ITS WEAKENED STATE--I CAN NOW GRASP THE ENERGY-SPIRIT OF CAP'N SKULL WITHOUT HARM--
--YANK IT OUT OF SIR GUY'S BODY!
GRIPPING THE SPIRIT OF CAP'N SKULL, THE SPECTRE DARTS INTO THE VORTEX WHICH HAS FLATTENED INTO THE SHAPE OF A MASSIVE WHEEL...
THOUGH I'M ABLE TO TOUCH HIM IN HIS WEAKENED STATE-- THE MEGACYCLIC ENERGY IN HIM WILL SOON INCREASE AGAIN-- BECOME TOO STRONG FOR ME TO COPE WITH--
SO I MUST QUICKLY THRUST HIM INTO HIS OWN TIME PERIOD!
EVEN AS THE ASTRAL AVENGER AND HIS QUARRY ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE INEXORABLE BANDS OF TIME...
HE'S ALREADY RECOVERING-- GLOWING WITH POWER!
AYE, YE SWAB--AND NOW I'LL ESCAPE EE FOREVER-- BY GOING BACK EVEN FURTHER INTO THE PAST!
THROUGH THE TEMPORAL CORRIDOR FLASHES THE PSYCHE OF CAP'N SKULL-- UNTIL...
THE WICKED EMPEROR COMMODUS-- WHO FOUGHT AS A GLADIATOR IN THE COLOSSEUM OF ROME-- ALSO WAS MY ANCESTOR! I SHALL ENTER HIS BODY!
ONCE AGAIN--I MUST FIND A WAY TO DRIVE HIM OUT OF AN ANCESTRAL TYRANT!

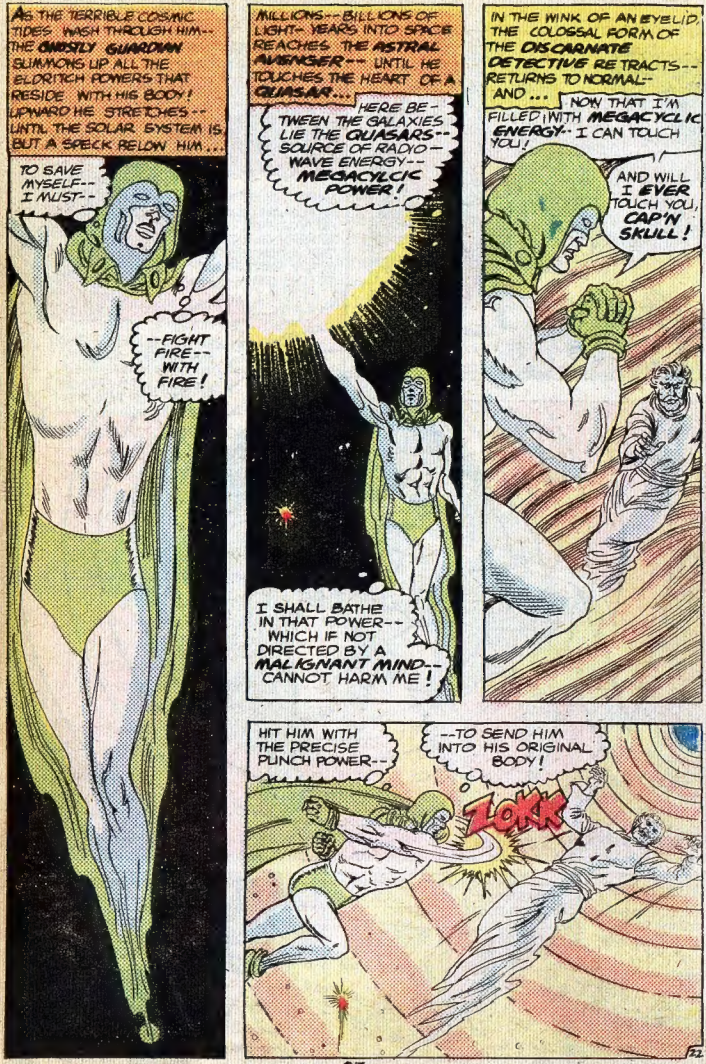

AS COMMODUS STABS FORWARD WITH A DEADLY THRUST--AND THE RETARIUS* HURLS HIS NET...
AS EMPEROR, I CONTROL THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF ALL MY PEOPLE!
DIE, GREATEST OF ALL NET-AND-TRIDENT WARRIORS!
I NEED NOT TOUCH "COMMODUS" TO DO--WHAT MUST BE DONE!
* A GLADIATOR WHO FOUGHT WITH NET-AND-TRIDENT.


FROM THE SKY ABOVE THE CITY OF ROME, THE DISCARNATE DETECTIVE PULLS DOWN A LIGHTNING BOLT...
THE ELECTRICITY WILL SHOCK COMMODUS--FORCE OUT THE SPIRIT OF CAP'N SKULL--
--MADE WEAK ENOUGH FOR ME TO HOLD ONTO IT!

HERE WE GO AGAIN, CAP'N SKULL--BACK TO YOUR OWN TIME AND AGE!
NEVER! I'LL FLEE INTO ONE BODY AND THEN ANOTHER--UNTIL I HAVE CONQUERED!

INSTANTLY--FOR TIME IS OF NO DURATION WITHIN THE WHEEL OF TIME--THE SPIRIT OF THE EVIL PIRATE TAKES REFUGE IN THE BODY OF PARIS, PRINCE OF TROY, AS HE IS ABDUCTING HELEN...
YOU SHALL NOT BEAT ME NOW, SPECTRE!
NO--NOT YET! I MUST BIDE MY TIME UNTIL...

AND WHILE THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN RETURNS INTO THE TIME WHEEL...
I HAVE SLAIN THE GREEK HERO, ACHILLES!
ALONE, I SHALL MAKE TROY GREATEST OF ALL CITIES! TROJAN MEN SHALL CONQUER AND RULE THE WORLD!
THEN OUT OF THE TIME WHEEL STABS THE FINGER OF THE SPECTRE--DEEP INTO THE GROUND IT PLUNGES AS...
I GROW FAINT--FROM SOME STRANGE POISON IN THE AIR...
NEITHER PARIS NOR CAP'N SKULL KNOWS ANYTHING OF NATURAL GAS!
IT IS NUMBING PARIS--LONG ENOUGH FOR THE ARROW FROM THE BOW OF PHILOCTETES TO OVERCOME HIM--AS HISTORY HAS RECORDED!
DRAGGED BACK INTO THE TIME VORTEX--CAP'N SKULL'S SPIRIT SUMMONS UP THE VERY MOTES OF TIME--HURLS THEM AT THE ASTRAL AVENGER...
FOR ME TO EXIST I MUST END YOUR EXISTENCE, SPECTRE!
THOSE MOTES--FILLED WITH POWER BEYOND ALL IMAGINING--
--COULD REND AND RIP MY SPECTRAL BEING INTO NOTHINGNESS!
HA! HA! I HAVE SUMMONED UP COSMIC WINDS TO ADD TO THE FURY OF THE MOTES!
AS THE MOTES SHAKE YOU APART--THE WINDS WILL BLOW YOU IN ALL DIRECTIONS--
--SCATTERING YOU HITHER AND YON!
THAT'S--NO--IDLE--BOAST--!


AS THE TERRIBLE COSMIC TIDES WASH THROUGH HIM--THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN SUMMONS UP ALL THE ELDRITCH POWERS THAT RESIDE WITH HIS BODY! UPWARD HE STRETCHES--UNTIL THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS BUT A SPECK BELOW HIM...
TO SAVE MYSELF--I MUST--
--FIGHT FIRE--WITH FIRE!
MILLIONS--BILLIONS OF LIGHT-YEARS INTO SPACE REACHES THE ASTRAL AVENGER--UNTIL HE TOUCHES THE HEART OF A QUASAR...
HERE BE-TWEEN THE GALAXIES LIE THE QUASARS--SOURCE OF RADIO-WAVE ENERGY--MEGACYCLIC POWER!
I SHALL BATHE IN THAT POWER--WHICH IF NOT DIRECTED BY A MALIGNANT MIND--CANNOT HARM ME!
IN THE WINK OF AN EYELID, THE COLOSSAL FORM OF THE DISCARNATE DETECTIVE RETRACTS--RETURNS TO NORMAL--AND...
NOW THAT I'M FILLED WITH MEGACYCLIC ENERGY--I CAN TOUCH YOU!
AND WILL I EVER TOUCH YOU, CAP'N SKULL!
HIT HIM WITH THE PRECISE PUNCH POWER--
--TO SEND HIM INTO HIS ORIGINAL BODY!
ZOKK
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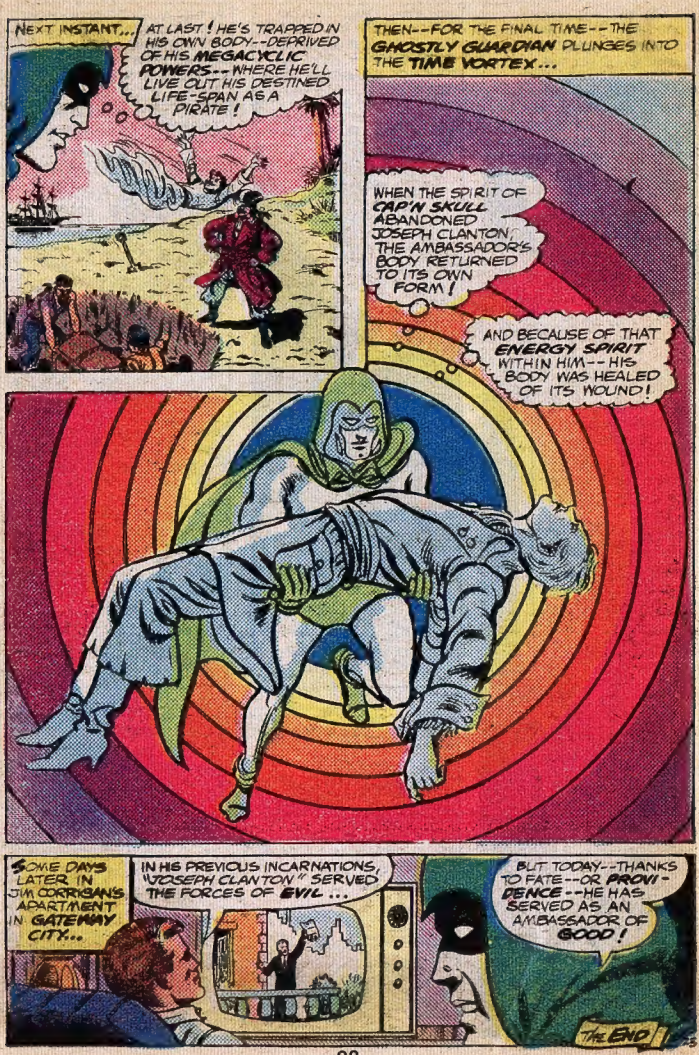
NEXT INSTANT...
AT LAST! HE'S TRAPPED IN HIS OWN BODY--DEPRIVED OF HIS MEGACYCLIC POWERS--WHERE HE'LL LIVE OUT HIS DESTINED LIFE-SPAN AS A PIRATE!
THEN--FOR THE FINAL TIME--THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN PLUNGES INTO THE TIME VORTEX...
WHEN THE SPIRIT OF CAP'N SKULL ABANDONED JOSEPH CLANTON, THE AMBASSADOR'S BODY RETURNED TO ITS OWN FORM!
AND BECAUSE OF THAT ENERGY SPIRIT WITHIN HIM--HIS BODY WAS HEALED OF ITS WOUND!
SOME DAYS LATER IN JIM CORRIGAN'S APARTMENT IN GATEWAY CITY...
IN HIS PREVIOUS INCARNATIONS, "JOSEPH CLANTON" SERVED THE FORCES OF EVIL...
BUT TODAY--THANKS TO FATE--OR PROVIDENCE--HE HAS SERVED AS AN AMBASSADOR OF GOOD!
THE END!

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES:

As we continue our chronological reprinting of the Legion of Super-Heroes stories, we come to seventh and eighth adventures... neither from ADVENTURE COMICS as these still pre-date the start of the Legion's series of adventures in this title.

"Superboy's Big Brother" (from SUPERBOY #89, June, 1961) has no internal evidence that it was planned as any part of the Legion saga. The character of Mon-El as featured in the story was an interesting addition to editor Mort Weisinger's concept of a "Superman family" of characters that appeared and reappeared in the various Superman-related titles, and it seems clear that that's the sole role the unknown author of the story planned for him. Even the original end tag of the story plugged a future issue of SUPERMAN in which the Man of Steel would visit the Phantom Zone.

Mon-El was not connected to the Legion until over a year later, when he joined the team in their very first series story in ADVENTURE COMICS #300. We include this story as part of the canons of the Legion, however, because it served to introduce him and set up other elements important to future Legion stories: Mon-El's presence in the Zone would be an important plot factor in at least two Legion solo stories, his acquaintanceship with Lana Lang would show up again, and finally, the very planet Daxam itself would be pivotal to the current storyline in the Legion (which you're still in time to get in on the epic conclusion of, if you keep your eyes out for #294's sensational double-size issue!).

More interesting to the Legion mythos is our second selection, "The Legion of Super-Villains" from SUPERMAN #147, August, 1961. Not only did this introduce one of the most important Legion villain teams, but it also began the long Adult Legion debate. This (and a series of subsequent stories culminating in ADVENTURE COMICS #354-355) established destinies for the Legionnaires unhinted at in the current stories.

Luthor's belief in the existence of the Super-Villains harkens back to his meeting with Lightning Lad in "The Army Of Living Kryptonite Men", which we reprinted two issues ago. This would be his only meeting with the Adult villains, but his descendant would play a critical role in defeating them years later.

More interesting was the origin detail revealed in the story. This was the first place we learned of the Lightning Monsters of Korbal, or the fact that Lightning Lad had a brother. It would be another two years before it would be revealed that sister Ayla was present too. The *un*similarity between Cosmic King's origin and Cosmic Boy's has never made a lot of sense, but clearly it does foreshadow Element Lad's existence. Finally, the fact that Saturn's rings cancel out criminality and that its inhabitants are all mentalists of one sort or another has also become pivotal in the mythos.

The peculiar costumes of the Adult Legionnaires are easier to explain than the fact that they still rely on the cumbersome jet-packs. This was one of the last times when the costumes were drawn wildly incorrectly (as opposed to typical small errors that creep into many stories), whereas the "stalled" technology of the future relates to the fact that neither the writers nor the artists could foresee the flying belts or flight rings which would change the whole look of the Legion.

Finally, and most importantly, this story introduced a new artist to the Legion: Curt Swan, who would later draw their series for several years (coming in third on the list of all-time number of Legion stories pencilled after Forte and Grell), and who drew most of the Superman family covers featuring the Legion as well.

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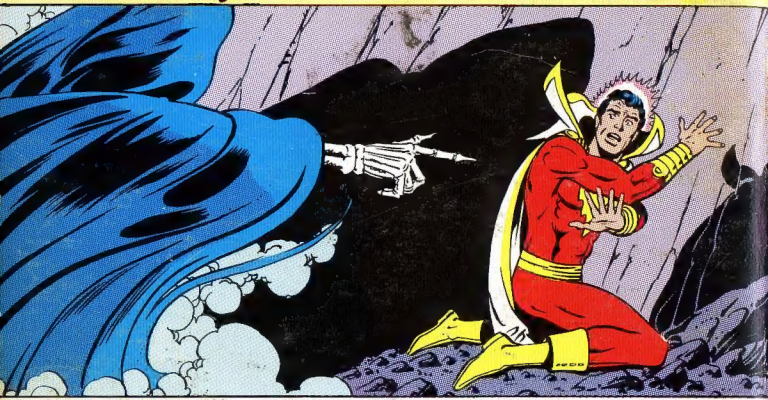

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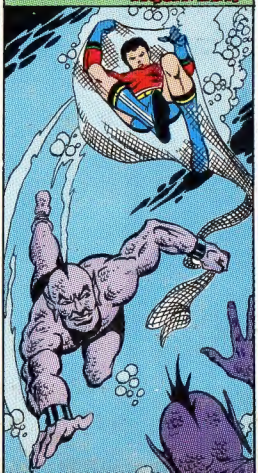

THE SPECTRE FACES THE SINISTER LIVES OF CAPT. SKULL!"